

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 8th DAY OF APRIL, 2021

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Regular Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, 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. Cawthorne, and Mr. Chavez led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ken Krefft gave the following comment:

First I want to thank Darlene Cooper in purchasing for returning my call and give me the information I requested yesterday. I want to congratulate Hank Aaron who 47 years ago took down for number 715. I want a welcome sign on I-59 South entering Caddo Parish. Not a welcome to Louisiana, bienvenue in Louisiana, I want to welcome to Caddo Parish. Let's let them know as we do northbound on I-49 Leaving DeSoto, it says Caddo Parish. It doesn't say welcome, it just says Caddo Parish. Similarly on I-20 eastbound, coming from Harrison County, Welcome to Louisiana, nothing about Caddo Parish. The Highway Department can do that. Westbound when you leave Bossier and enter Caddo Parish, it tells you Caddo Parish. for some reason, coming from another parish deserves a parish sign. Coming from another state does not. It's everywhere when you leave I-20 westbound leaving Vicksburg, and you come into Louisiana, it tells you Louisiana, but it doesn't tell you Madison Parish. Juvenile justice, just want to kind of bring it up. I hope we can get a meeting soon. The last time we tried was November 7 of 06, when Cedric Glover defeated Jerry Jones for Mayor. It failed by 664 votes; it was a tenth of a percent Sales & Use Tax. A penny on a \$20 bill would be enough to fund the deficit and otherwise, we keep chiseling away deficit spending, year after year, as we've done for many years. The Broadmoor Neighborhood Association has a new schedule. We don't have to Zoom, so we're going to need Commissioners, Jim and John-Paul, who each have a part of the Broadmoor area in their district. Third Tuesdays at 6:30, the Broadmoor Presbyterian Church gym. Specifically on Tuesday, the 20th, a runoff for BESE District 4 between Mr. Melerine and Dr. Williams. Finally, the wildflowers. I drove to Baton Rouge, so beautiful in Desoto Parish and in Natchitoches. Yellow and purple and maroon, white, red, gorgeous. I don't know if Caddo has them on I-49 North to Arkansas. I haven't driven that way in many months. If it doesn't, whoever can get some beautiful wildflowers as I saw in the other parishes. That'll do it, I think. I thank you for meeting live. Thank you.

Laura Sabbath gave the following comment:

I spoke to the coroner today, praying that he does the right thing. I know what I'm up against. He said natural causes, and I say word games. My baby didn't just drop dead. The coroner said that my baby's sugar level was way past 1,000. You would think that was enough. It gets worse. With his last breath was, help me. Who is responsible because I have names of correctional officers that were there standing right there in front of him that weekend. My son had been blowing my phone, Saturday and Sunday. Every time he would call me from the jail, my phone was blacked. So by the time I would open it up, my call was lost. He tried calling me desperately six times. And I'm going to have to live with that. My stupid phone did not let me open the phone, and find out what was going on. So he was trying to get help from his mother. I just want to read you some statements from some of the eyewitnesses, 'they told him f he didn't go back to his sale. He would go on lockdown. I witnessed three days straight. They refused him from going to the doctor. One of them was new, and the other one's name was -bleep- -bleep-, or something like that. They don't pay attention to inmates here. they always they think right. You can't tell them nothing. I'm ready to take my time and get away from here, honestly. But I have more information. Once I get the writing statements from other inmates.' That's just one, and bear with me, I'm just reading partial letters because I don't want them to be identified and harassed. This one says, 'He was this severe pain. So he filled out a sick call. Instead they gave him two Tylenol and a Tums.' I have three statements from this one person that said my son put out a sick call three times, and none of his pleas were met. When it talks about my son falling down in his cell, and he couldn't breathe and help him. And they told him to get his a- back in the cell before we kill him. Please help us. We're asking for independent investigation outside of Shreveport, outside of Louisiana. I need to feel that this investigation was fair and thorough. Excuse me when I don't trust that the same people that responsible for myself down are going to investigate himself. So to me that makes no sense to me. I am begging this board to please vote yes on this investigation. I need justice I need to know how my baby died. He didn't die. He died from people who we trust, to take care of them. They're paid to have the inmate housed in their facility. I don't know why they didn't give him medical attention but, you know, it's a pattern with this place. So, I'm begging all of you to do this, because there are the inmates that could be harmed as well for witnessing this, so I'm speaking for them. It's beyond anything that I've ever heard that people are treated like this. No respect at all. They are berated, spit at, beaten, everything, by the people we trust. If I got that call, they would take me to jail, or they were going to pull my son out of there. If I have answered that call, and my son said Mama help me. I would have went to jail that night because y'all gonna get my baby some help. Somebody's got to do all that. That's my child.

I want to see the video. I want to see who was standing there watching him go to sleep at night because they sleeping real good I think. Not me, not so much. Every time I close my eyes, I think about my baby couldn't breathe. He had bronchitis. So imagine it getting worse. You know my baby died over a thirty cent pill that could have saved his life, and he was denied. So, I just need you guys to do the right thing. I love Shreveport. I do. This is my home. Thank you for your time.

Lester Smith came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

We're back here again. A mother pleading for somebody to help her for the death of her child in the hands of those who are supposed to serve and protect. And we constantly have to come down here and beg asking people to do what they should do. That young man within the custody of Caddo Parish Sheriff. If he was in their custody. He was in their care, and they should have taken care of that young man. But this is a trend when it comes to us. A group of white guys got together and stormed the Capitol. Not one was harmed, but let it have been Black Lives Matter, there wouldn't have been enough body bags. Proved it the other day when a black individual ran through the barricades. Killed. So, I'm not coming to beg and ask you guys to do what we think that you should know needs to be done. But what I'm saying is we as a people. Black people going to have to come together because if iron sharpens iron, strong men make weaker men stronger. We're gonna have to come together. The best way to stop a foot is to put something back on his behalf. That way you get some respect, and order from them. As long as we come down here, begging and asking the people that we pay to do for us what should come natural with their job. We haven't gotten a favorable response yet. I've been down here on numerous occasions asking, not necessarily this body, but the city council to do something about individuals that's killed and murdered at the hands of police officers. There's not been one conviction of any police officer in this city for killing a black man. it's time out for us coming down here begging. So I charge people to come together. First of all we as a people need to unite and come together and do what we have to do because these are our babies. A mother is begging and crying because somebody didn't do what they were supposed to do for her child in an institution that we pay to operate. Our tax dollars pay to keep that place open. We cannot find justice I don't care where we look, we cannot find justice, and this is wrong people. We shouldn't have to come down here asking you guys to make the law do what the law supposed to do. It's sad that we as a people constantly come down here begging you guys to help us. And I say to us, when are we going to start helping ourselves? I say, The time is now. We need to stop coming down here begging and asking our elected officials who are supposed to recognize the needs in our community to do, what should be done in our community. This time we take it upon ourselves and do what we need to do to help us.

Katelyn Douglas came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I came here today to speak on behalf and in support of Resolution No. 35. I first want to say thank you to Steven Jackson for being the only Commissioner to actually support it. I'm very disappointed with the fact that last summer, at the height of George Floyd protesting, our entire city had a monumental movement in support of lives being taken at the hands of police and being taken in Caddo Parish custody. I come here representing Hood Politics, We the People, Black Voters Matter, NAACP, and whole bunch of other organizations. But what's the point of us having elected officials in office if you aren't listening to your constituency. It should it should be shameful to you guys that people are there—you just saw a mother who lost her son in police custody. Literally pleading with you, bringing witness statements, asking for answers surrounding the death of her son. You need to treat felons as citizens who should be rehabilitated, not as people who don't have hope for a better future. And I would hope, and think that at 26 years old, I could look to commissioners who are seasoned and who may have a different level of experience than myself, to be able to do the things that they do. I am in District 7. Stormy Gage-Watts is my Commissioner. I'm very disappointed in the fact that I have heard that you have not been supporting this legislation, especially because Mooretown is one of the most underprivileged underserved and under resourced areas in our community. We have gun violence in our communities. But let's not talk about gun violence. Let's talk about the violence and the perpetuation of evils at the elected official and legislative levels. It is an evil, in fact, to not do what is in the best interest and what serves the best interests of the people. You do good things; you set good examples; and you get good results. Period. Point blank. I support Resolution 35 because of Wavey Austin, because of Tommy McGlothen, because of Casey Lewis Simpson, and because of the myriad of people who are being killed in police custody in Shreveport, Louisiana. The entire world is literally watching a trial for a murder of a black man who was killed, and we know for a fact, undoubtedly that he was killed and murdered in police custody. Yet, they have found a way to put him, a dead black man, on trial instead of the person who actually murdered him. Let's not repeat mistakes, and let's not make the same mistakes of our history. We have the power to be able to change things and to set examples, and to create a future for Shreveport conducive to the growth in the level of capacity building that we want to see for our youth and our young adults. Felons are people and they should be treated as such in police custody. So at the end of the day thank you. Again, I'm disappointed Ms. Watts. I'm open to communicate with you and I'm disappointed in everybody else who did not support this legislation.

Marvin Muhammed came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I'm going to start off my words with an article from the Advocate titled, 'Angola Officials deliberately indifferent to inmates' medical needs, judge says'. State corrections officials have been "deliberately indifferent" to the medical needs of Louisiana State Penitentiary inmates for decades, a federal judge has ruled, noting that diagnosing one prisoner's cancer took so long that he died before chemotherapy

could begin.

In her 124-page ruling Wednesday, Chief U.S. District Judge Shelley Dick found that inmate access to health care is unconstitutionally inadequate in the areas of clinical care, specialty care, infirmary care and emergency care. Diagnoses and treatments are so bad they violate constitutional prohibitions against cruel and unusual punishments, she said. "Plaintiffs have satisfied their burden of proving the Defendants have been deliberately indifferent to the inmates' serious medical needs in the means and manner of the delivery of health care, in violation of the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution," she wrote. I submit to you gentlemen that the Department of Corrections in Angola State Penitentiary is a microcosm of a systemic issue that does not include Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, and the facility here, that this Parish owns, Caddo Correctional Center. I want to thank Commissioner President LBJ for his letter to the to the Sheriff. As we know now, the Sheriff responded very boldly indicating to us that he had no intention of bringing anybody from the outside for an investigation. I'm reminded of a President, LBJ, who during his tenure he brought the 1963 Public Accommodations Act. In 1964, the Civil Rights Act. In the 1965, the Voting Rights Act. Why is this critical? Because those of us were born disenfranchised, we understand that it's not about relationships. Commissioner Johnson requested the state office is based off a relationship. In the future, we might not have a President of the Commission that has a lean towards the citizens of the City of the Parish. This is why we must vote for Commissioner Jackson's resolution because it asks for policies in place. We want an investigation that does not only deal with Casey Simpson's loss of life, but look at the operational procedures of CCC. We know that CCC was built with a certain prison capacity. We know that under Prator, he now puts three men in a cell. Think about that! Six by nine cells. In COVID conditions. Three men now less than six feet apart. Think about that! Medical indifference, malpractice, disregard for humanity—this is what must change. There's a belief that the Sheriff or the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office isn't necessarily responsible to report—as I was saying, this isn't about relationships. This is about the necessity of policy. You cannot bank on relationships to bridge the community together. Policy does not necessarily bridge communities, but what it does is it provides the framework, because the policy has to be at the heart. So I ask you today to think, but to think. As I was saying at the conclusion of my three minutes, the Sheriff, as this Commission knows, or the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Department, gives a monthly report to you all about the amount of contraband that goes or enters into parish facilities—Caddo Parish Courthouse and Caddo Parish Juvenile facility. So, the things that is in this resolution, Resolution No. 35 is sensible. We need a framework, moving forward; we need a framework to bridge the community together. You know, Commissioner Burrell, I'm actually fond of one of the greatest doctors that I love. Dr. Martin Luther King because in his attempt to bring equality and justice for the disenfranchised. Benjamin Johnson is reported as saying, make them do what's right. Of course, we now know, the King was up to the task. So I ask you to do what's right so that the citizens of this Parish won't feel like we have to make you do what's right by protesting the Caddo Correctional Center; by protesting Parish facilities until we have your attention. Thank you.

Breka Peoples came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I want to thank Steven for sponsoring 35, and thank you Ms. Stormy, Lynn, and y'all for your support as well. It's a must that we get this done. We must have checks and balances and to build confidence in each and every one of y'all from the citizens. I mean, if we have this—if we pass this, I hope we pass it. When we pass this resolution, and we don't find anything, fine. We gotta see what's going on in the jail. I came under the leadership of Gerry Burrell. She is the Police Jurywoman in Desoto Parish. I know from her teaching that y'all are responsible for the jail. Y'all own the jail. We should know what's going in there. We should know. I mean we just want to know what's going, what happened with the people in the jail, and what happened to Casey. That's it. We, the people promise that Casey Simpson, and also Tommy McGlothen stand with Steven. Thank you Commission.

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to adopt the Regular Session Minutes from March 18, 2021*. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Gage-Watts (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to adopt the Special Session Minutes from March 22, 2021*. 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: Commissioners Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Recognition of Executive Assistant Karen Bell's Retirement

Dr. Wilson said that Ms. Karen Bell was retiring after 23 years of service to the Commission. He read aloud the plaque that was made in her honor, *'Karen K. Bell, for recognition of 22 years of dedicated*

service to the Caddo Parish Commission Administration and the citizens of the parish. It has been a privilege and honor to work beside you. You have truly been an inspiration to all of us. July 22, 1998 to April 9, 2021.' Dr. Wilson thanked Ms. Bell once again for her service and her advice and inspiration over the years.

Ms. Bell thanked the Commission and Administration for honoring her today. She will spend her days taking care of her mother and enjoying retirement.

Mr. Hopkins congratulated Ms. Bell for her retirement and commended her for her professionalism over the years. Mr. Jackson also congratulated Ms. Bell and wished her the best on her future endeavors. Mr. Burrell commended Ms. Bell for the work she has exhibited over the years. Mr. Atkins also commended and congratulated Ms. Bell. Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Ms. Bell for the prayers and words of encouragement over the years.

- Introduction of the newly hired Executive Assistant, Mrs. Anita Mills

Mrs. Mills thanked Dr. Wilson and Mrs. Bryant for trusting that she will fill Ms. Bell's shoes. She looks forward to working with the Commission in this capacity.

- Recognition of Mr. Lloyd Samuels Retirement

Dr. Wilson said that Mr. Samuels was retiring after 30 years of service to the Commission. He read aloud the plaque that was made in his honor, '*Llyod Sameuls, Tech I, for recognition of 34 years of dedicated service to the Caddo Parish Facilities & Maintenance and the citizens of the parish. It has been a privilege and honor to work beside you. You have truly been an inspiration to all of us. April 20, 1987 to April 9, 2021.*' Dr. Wilson thanked Mr. Samuels for his hard work over the years.

Mr. Samuels thanked Administration and the Commission for honoring him today.

- Confederate Monument Update

Dr. Wilson stated that they received several RFPs that are being evaluated for technical competency to see if they can complete the work soon.

- Disparity Study Update

The disparity study is due back this Thursday, April 8.

- I-49 Welcome Sign Update

A location has been found up north to install the sign, but DOTD wants it placed 100 feet off the right-of-way, and that may cause a problem with visibility. They are working with DOTD to see what else they can come up with.

- U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program

To date, 2,241 applications have been submitted. They hope to serve up to 6,000 families.

- Animal Services & Mosquito Control Update
Travis Clark, Director
Kelvin Samuel, Assistant Director

Mr. Clark gave an update on Animal Services. Over the past three years, the intake numbers and euthanasia rate has decreased dramatically. In 2020, Animal Services took in 3,658 animals and had 2,952 positive outcomes. The euthanasia rate was 14% with a LRR (Live Release Rate) of 86%. For the first quarter of this year, Animal Services is above that and hopes to stay that way. In 2020, 379 dogs were humanely euthanized, 214 of them were bully or pitbull breeds.

Mr. Clark also talked about the number of summons issued in 2020. There were 119 city summons, 73 parish summons, and 13 warrants.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if Caddo Animal Services accepts animals from all over. Mr. Clark explained that they are not supposed to, but it does not state in the ordinance that the owner has to have a Caddo ID.

Mr. Samuel gave an update on Mosquito Control. They have started setting traps and are currently testing water for breeding. Spraying will tentatively start on Monday, April 12. They are also distributing BTI granules for rural areas for standing water.

Mr. Samuel then talked about the different types of West Nile: neuro-invasive, fever, and

asymptomatic. In 2020, there were six cases of West Nile, all of which were neuro-invasive. He encouraged all to wear mosquito spray, eliminate standing water, and take other precautionary measure to eliminate the breeding of mosquitoes.

Mr. Burrell asked that Mosquito Control look into a spillway in the Queensborough neighborhood that is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know what measures are being taken to eliminate tires. Mr. Samuel said that they do not have any teeth for that right now, and it is more of a code enforcement issue.

- **Overview Establishing Funds**

Mr. Jackson asked for an update on the RFP for the Housing Trust Fund. Dr. Wilson said that the money has been appropriated, but the RFQ needs to be put out for management. Mr. Jackson wanted to know if the legal review has been completed.

Mr. Jackson said that he submitted a public record's request for the enabling legislation for each special revenue fund. Dr. Wilson provided the Commissioners with a response regarding the Commission's budget responsibility, requirements for enabling legislation to establish a fund, as well as the Louisiana Government Budget Act (LGBA) FAQ's. In his response, Dr. Wilson mentioned that the LGBA nor the Caddo Parish Charter requires enabling legislation to establish a fund of any kind, including special revenue funds.

Mr. Jackson also asked for the enabling legislation for each special revenue fund and the budgets for each fund. Dr. Wilson mentioned that Administration are not the keepers of enabling legislation, the Clerk is. He also said that the Finance Department would have the information submitted to the auditors.

Mr. Jackson explained that when he went to set up the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund, Legal told him that enabling legislation was required. He further explained that 'we could not transfer funds or we could not accept funds, or we could not expend funds from a Special Revenue Fund that the Commission did not create'. Mr. Jackson suggested that policy be put in the place to adopt a policy that requires enabling legislation for consistency moving forward when creating funds.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Johnson said that he will be establishing an American Rescue Plan Committee. Mr. Atkins, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Cawthorne, Mrs. Gage-Watts, and Mr. Johnson were appointed to the committee.

Mr. Johnson said that he submitted a request to Sheriff Prator to conduct an independent investigation, but Sheriff Prator responded back by saying his investigation sufficed. Mr. Johnson said that he sent a letter to Governor Edwards requesting that an independent study be performed at the facility. He also said that he will submit a public records request on behalf of the Caddo Parish Commission on the Sheriff's investigation and the coroner's report.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- The Commission Clerk read aloud the following notice of intent:

Notice is hereby given that the Caddo Parish Commission of Caddo Parish, Louisiana (the "Parish"), plans to consider ordinances to adopt (levy) the Parish's ad valorem tax millages for properties within the Parish of Caddo, at the meeting on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. at the Government Plaza Building, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana. At this meeting, the Parish will consider adoption of its General Purpose Millages, Special Purpose Millages, and Debt Service Millage. The Parish will also consider adoption of the values fixed or to be fixed by the Louisiana Tax Commission on all assessments for railways and other public service corporations and consider setting the assessments of property classified as timberlands.

- Mr. Hopkins announced that the Personnel Policies & Procedures Committee will meet on Monday, April 19 at 2:00 p.m.

- Mr. Chavez wanted to know if a public records request needs to come from the Commission or Ms. Sabbath to obtain the camera footage the jail. He also wanted to know the legal dynamics of the Caddo Parish Commission in relation to the jail and CCC. Dr. Wilson said that the Parish owns the facility, so it is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep. The operation of the facility comes under the auspices of the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office. If someone wants to do a public records request, the Sheriff is the keeper of the knowledge regarding a prisoner's welfare and well-being.

- Mr. Young wanted to know if the Parish owns the lease of the cameras, and what control does that give the Parish over the footage. Dr. Wilson said that the Parish installs and maintains the cameras, but the Sheriff operates the cameras and video.

Mr. Young wanted to know the purpose of the cameras. Dr. Wilson said it is to monitor security and compliance issues.

- Mr. Burrell wanted to know if the Parish has any legal jurisdiction or liability in the current situation at CCC. Dr. Wilson explained that the Parish owns the facility, and if something happens brick and mortar wise and leads to someone being injured, the Parish is responsible for maintaining it or failing to maintain it. Dr. Wilson said that the Parish has control to the extent that the systems are being maintained properly, but the Parish is not responsible for the operation of the facility.

Attorney Frazier reiterated that the Parish has the responsibility to maintain the jail, and it owns the facility; however, the Sheriff has the responsibility of running the jail. The State Police Commander has told President Johnson on how to request an outside investigation should the Sheriff refuse to invite an outside investigation.

Mr. Johnson further explained that the request will go to the Governor, who will then tell the Louisiana State Police that they will be conducting an independent investigation at Caddo Correctional Center. He also said that the Mayor can submit the request to the Governor as well, but it is a Parish facility.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts responded to the comment made during citizens comments regarding her not supporting Resolution No. 35. She stated that she is in full support of Resolution No. 35 and has been. Mrs. Gage-Watts also said that she has been at the forefront to stop gun violence in the community. she is suggesting gun buy-back programs, ring doorbell cameras, lighting, cleaning up of blighted properties, etc. to reduce the crime and violence. She is also highly encouraging prayer.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

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

- *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*
- *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*
- *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*

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

ORDINANCES (for final passage)

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobo and adopt the following ordinances:*

- *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*
- *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*
- *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*

Mr. Jackson said that all of these came out of the Economic Development Committee and were vetted properly.

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).

ORDINANCE NO. 6044 of 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND, THE OIL AND GAS FUND AND THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE YEAR 2021 TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$333,000 TO SUPPORT THE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND EMERGING VIRAL THREATS BUILDING AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Center for Medical Education and Emerging Viral Threats at LSU Health Shreveport will create sustainable economic growth in North Louisiana while improving the overall health of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Medical Education and Emerging Viral Threats is an opportunity to expand our footprint as a national leader in research; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Medical Education will address the healthcare shortage in Louisiana by expanding our medical school class size, enhance learning and wellness environment to align with student needs and expectations, increase the competitive edge for recruitment of students, resident and faculty, provide an opportunity for growth and the addition of new programs and further positive impact to the economy of North Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Center of Excellence for Emerging Viral Threats (CEVT) will engage in multidisciplinary, basic, translation and public health research on viruses, provides cutting edge diagnostics and access to national clinical trials and educations physicians, scientist and the community about prevent, treatment and the science of viral-mediated diseases; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to appropriate funds for the Center for Medical Education and Emerging Viral Threats not to exceed \$334,000 per year for three years; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Capital Outlay Fund and the Oil and Gas Fund for the year 2021 is hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
<u>Capital Outlay Fund</u>	
Administration—LSU Health Shreveport Building	\$333,000
Transfer from Oil & Gas Fund	\$166,500
Transfer from General Fund	\$166,500
<u>Oil & Gas Fund</u>	
Transfer to Capital Outlay Fund	\$166,500
Fund Balance	(\$166,500)
<u>General Fund</u>	
Transfer to Capital Outlay Fund	\$166,500
Fund Balance	(\$166,500)

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 take effect upon adoption.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6045 OF 2021

BY CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND 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

WHEREAS, one of the most highly anticipated college football matchups between Grambling State University and Southern University known as the Bayou Classic will be held in Shreveport on April 17, 2021.; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Port City Classic is expected to bring thousands of spectators to the Shreveport area; and

WHEREAS, the last time the game was playing in Shreveport was in 1973; and WHEAREAS, the Bayou Classic organizers plan to have activities and events leading up to the game, such as the Port City Fest; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to appropriate \$50,000 to assist with the associated costs to host the Port City Fest; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2021 Budget of the Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation for the Port City Fest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the General Fund and the Economic Development for the year 2021 are hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
Economic Development:	
Allocation to Other Entities	
Port City Fest	\$ 50,000
Fund Balance	(\$ 50,000)

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 take effect upon adoption.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6046 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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

WHEREAS, the Parish participates in the Federal flood insurance community rating system program,

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has updated the requirements for maintaining a Class 8 community rating;

WHEREAS, maintaining that community rating results in savings to residents who have flood insurance through FEMA flood insurance programs; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to continue the Class 8 or better rating resulting in savings to residents of Caddo Parish with flood insurance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Article III of Chapter 18 Of the Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE III. - PROVISIONS FOR FLOOD HAZARD REDUCTION

Sec. 18-71. - General standards.

In all areas of special flood hazard, the following provisions are required for all new construction and substantial improvements:

- (1) All new construction or substantial improvements shall be designed, or modified, and adequately anchored to prevent flotation, collapse or lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy;
- (2) All new construction or substantial improvements shall be constructed methods and practices that minimize flood damage;
- (3) All new construction or substantial improvements shall be constructed with materials resistant to flood damage;
- (4) All new construction or substantial improvements shall be constructed at a minimum of one foot above the base flood elevation, which includes with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing and air conditioning equipment and other service facilities ~~that are designed and/or located~~ so as to prevent water from entering and/or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding;
- (5) All new and replacement water supply systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of floodwaters into the system;
- (6) New and replacement sanitary sewage systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of floodwaters into the system and discharge from the systems into floodwaters; and
- (7) On-site waste disposal systems shall be located to avoid impairment to them or contamination from them during flooding.

Sec. 18-72. - Specific standards.

In all areas of special flood hazard where base flood elevation data has been provided as set forth in section 18-8, 18-39(b)(1)h, or 18-73(c), the following provisions are required:

- (1) *Residential construction.* New construction or substantial improvement of any residential structure shall have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated by utilization of flood-resistant materials and construction techniques to a minimum of one foot above the base flood elevation. A registered professional engineer, architect, or land surveyor shall submit a certification to the director of public works that the standard of this subsection (1) is satisfied and that the level complies with that proposed in the development permit application.
- (2) *Nonresidential construction.* New construction or substantial improvement of any commercial, industrial or other nonresidential structure shall either have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated by utilization of flood-resistant materials and construction techniques to a minimum of one foot above the base flood level, or, together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, be designed so that below that base flood level the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy. A registered professional engineer or architect shall develop and/or review structural design, specifications and plans for the construction, and shall certify that the design and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice as outlined in this subsection (2). A record of such certification which includes the specific elevation, in relation to mean sea level, to which structures are flood proofed shall be maintained by the director of public works.
- (3) *Enclosures.* New construction and substantial improvements, with fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor that are usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage in an area other than a basement, and which are subject to

flooding, shall be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect or meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:

- a. A minimum of two openings having a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding shall be provided.
- b. The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above grade.
- c. Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves, or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic entry or exit of floodwaters.

(4) *Manufactured homes.*

- a. All manufactured homes to be placed within zone A on the parish's FHB or FIRM shall be installed using methods and practices which minimize flood damage. For the purposes of this requirement, manufactured homes must be elevated and anchored to resist flotation, collapse, or lateral movement. Methods of anchoring may include, but are not limited to, use of over-the-top or frame ties to ground anchors. This requirement is in addition to applicable state and local anchoring requirements for resisting wind forces.
- b. Manufactured homes that are placed or substantially improved within zones A1-30, AH, and AE on the parish's FIRM on sites:
 - 1. Outside of a manufactured home park or subdivision;
 - 2. In a new manufactured home park or subdivision;
 - 3. In an expansion to an existing manufactured home park or subdivision; or
 - 4. In an existing manufactured home park or subdivision; on which a manufactured home has incurred substantial damage as a result of a flood, shall be elevated on a permanent foundation such that the ~~bottom lowest floor~~ of the manufactured home chassis is elevated to a minimum of one foot above the base flood elevation and shall be securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation system to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement.
- c. Manufactured homes placed or substantially improved on sites in an existing manufactured home park or subdivision within zones A1-30, AH and AE on the parish's FIRM that do not fall into the categories covered in subsection (4)b of this section shall be elevated so that ~~either~~:
 - 1. The ~~bottom lowest floor~~ of the manufactured home chassis is at a minimum of one foot above the base flood elevation; ~~and~~
 - 2. The manufactured home chassis is supported by reinforced piers or other foundation elements of at least equivalent strength that are no less than 36 inches in height above grade and be securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation system to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement.

(5) *Recreational vehicles.* Recreational vehicles placed on sites within zones A1-30, AH, and AE on the parish's FIRM shall either:

- a. Be on the site for fewer than 180 consecutive days;
- b. Be fully licensed and ready for highway use; or
- c. Meet the permit requirements of section 18-40(b), and the elevation and anchoring requirements for manufactured homes in subsection (4) of this section.

A recreational vehicle is ready for highway use if it is on its wheels or

jacking system, is attached to the site only by quick-disconnect type utilities and security devices, and has no permanently attached additions.

- (6) *Red River Special Flood Hazard Area.* In those areas between the Caddo Parish Levee and the boundary of Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish on the Red River Special Flood Hazard Area map filed and maintained by the department of public works, the lowest floor or mechanical or electric equipment shall be elevated to a minimum of one and one-half feet above the high water mark. As to that area, the elevation established in this paragraph shall be used instead of any elevation specified in paragraphs (1) through (5) above.

Sec. 18-73. - Subdivision proposals.

- (a) All subdivision proposals, including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions, shall be consistent with sections 18-2 through 18-4.
- (b) All proposals for the development of subdivisions, including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions, shall meet the development permit requirements of section 18-40.
- (c) Base flood elevation data shall be generated for subdivision proposals, including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions, and other proposed development which is greater than the lesser of 50 lots or five acres, if not otherwise provided pursuant to section 18-8 or 18-39(b)(1)h.
- (d) All subdivision proposals, including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions, shall have public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical and water systems located and constructed to minimize flood damage.
- (e) All subdivision proposals, including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions, shall have public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical and water systems located and constructed to minimize flood damage.

Sec. 18-74. - Standards for areas of shallow flooding (AO/AH Zones).

Located within the areas of special flood hazard established in section 18-8 are areas designated as shallow flooding areas. These areas have special flood hazards associated with base flood depths of one to three feet where a clearly defined channel does not exist and where the path of flooding is unpredictable and where velocity flow may not be evident. Such flooding is characterized by ponding or sheet flow; therefore, the following provisions apply:

- (1) All new construction and substantial improvements of residential structures must have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to a minimum of one foot above the base flood elevation or above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number specified in feet on the FIRM (at least three ~~two~~ feet if no depth number is specified).
- (2) All new construction and substantial improvements of nonresidential structures must:
 - a. Have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to a minimum of one foot above the base flood elevation or highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number specified in feet on the FIRM (at least three ~~two~~ feet if no depth number is specified); and ~~or~~
 - b. Together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, be designed so that below the base flood level the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads of effects buoyancy.
- (3) A registered professional engineer or architect shall submit a certification to the department of public works that the standards of this section are satisfied.
- (4) Within Zone AH or AO, adequate drainage paths around structures on slopes shall be required to guide floodwaters around and away from proposed structures.

Sec. 18-75. - Floodways.

Located within areas of special flood hazard established by section 18-8 are areas designed as floodways. Since the floodway is an extremely hazardous area due to the velocity of floodwaters which carry debris, potential projectiles and erosion potential, the following provisions shall apply:

- (1) Encroachments are prohibited, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements and other development, within an adopted regulatory floodway unless it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase in flood levels within the parish during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.
- (2) If such certification is satisfactorily furnished, all new construction and substantial improvements allowed pursuant thereto shall comply with all applicable flood hazard reduction provisions of this article.
- (3) Under the provisions of 44 CFR 65.12 of the National Flood Insurance Regulations, the parish may permit encroachments within an adopted regulatory floodway that would result in an increase in base flood elevations, provided that the parish first applies for a conditional FIRM and floodway revision through FEMA.

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 take effect upon adoption.

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

ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- *Ordinance No. 6047 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation of \$25,000 for the Shreveport Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6048 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund and Riverboat Fund to provide an appropriation of \$35,000 for Gameport Exhibition at Sci-Port, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6049 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures of the Oil & Gas Fund to provide an appropriation of \$100,000 for the ESO Fire Reporting System, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6050 of 2021, an ordinance adopting the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Fund and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

WORK SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the Work Session Minutes from April 5, 2021 be ratified. Motion carried.*

RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to englobe and adopt the following resolutions:*

- *Resolution No. 31 of 2021, a resolution urging and requesting the United States Congress to pass the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act of 2021, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 32 of 2021, a resolution proclaiming and supporting April as National Autism Awareness Month and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

- *Resolution No. 33 of 2021, a resolution declaring 'National County/Parish Government Month' in Caddo Parish, Louisiana*

Mrs. Gage-Watts explained that there has been anti-Asian violence across the nation. She said that if Congress passes the Hate Crimes Act, it would dedicate Department of Justice staff to manage an expedited review of federal state and local hate crimes related to COVID-19 as well as provide guidance to government and law enforcement. She asked that the Commission support this resolution.

Mrs. Gage-Watts also spoke on Resolution No. 32 of 2021. She wore blue today to bring awareness to those who are living with autism.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, and Taliaferro (8). NAYS: Commissioners Hopkins, Lazarus, and Young (3). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 31 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION URGING AND REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS THE COVID-19 HATE CRIMES ACT OF 2021, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, Since the onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic and increasing sharply in March of 2020 there has been a documented surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans with recent data confirming that hate crimes against Asians have increased 150% in many major cities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, recent polling finds that 30% of Americans have witnessed some form of Covid-19 related bias against Asians including but not limited to incidents of harassment, verbal and physical assaults, refusal of service, vandalism and violence, particularly violence aimed at the elderly; and

WHEREAS, The Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act has been introduced in Congress by Representative Grace Meng and Senator Mazie Hirono and is co-sponsored by 60 legislators and has the endorsement of President Biden; and

WHEREAS, The Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act would dedicate Department of Justice staff to managing an expedited review of federal, state and local hate crimes related to Covid-19, as well as provide guidance and resources for local and state governments and law enforcement to address hate crimes related to Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, the roughly 21 million Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders are an important and valued part of our United State of America who deserve to live free from fear and discrimination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that it hereby urges and requests the U.S. Congress to the Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act into law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to both houses of the United States Congress.

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 this resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 32 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING AND SUPPORTING APRIL AS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, every person deserves the chance to reach for their highest hopes and fulfill their greatest potential. On National Autism Awareness Month, we reaffirm our dedication to ensuring that belief is a reality for all those who live on the autism spectrum -- including 1 in 68 children. And we uphold our obligation to help make sure every man, woman, and child, regardless of ability or background, is accepted for who they are and able to lead a life free from discrimination and filled with opportunity; and

WHEREAS, from home to school and in businesses and communities around the nation, people living with autism spectrum disorder contribute in immeasurable ways to our society. They remind us each day that every person is born with unique talents and should be treated with respect, play an active role in planning for their futures, and feel empowered to fully participate in and contribute to their communities. When those with autism have access to equal opportunities, we all do better, and that begins with making sure our country lives up to its commitment to ensure all things are possible for all people; and

WHEREAS, Americans with autism play an important role in our national story, and in their daily lives they embody the belief at the heart of our founding: that in America, with hard work and equal access, all people can realize their aspirations. Today, and every day, let us reach for a future in which no person living on the autism spectrum is limited by anything but the size of their dreams -- one in which all people have the opportunity to live a life filled with a sense of identity, purpose, and self-determination; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that it does hereby proclaim April, 2021 as National Autism Awareness Month and urge citizens and organizations to participate in activities and demonstrations that provide a special opportunity to educate the community about autism.

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 33 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

A RESOLUTION DECLARING 'NATIONAL COUNTY/PARISH GOVERNMENT MONTH' IN CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

WHEREAS, each spring the National Association of Counties calls attention to the role that the nation's 3,069 county and parish governments play in the lives of the citizens of this nation, declaring a week in April as "National County Week" and staging activities and events that focus on county-level programs and services; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana, with its historic and singular 'parish' governmental structure serving as a unique yet functionally equivalent partner to the nation's counties, enthusiastically participates in the aims and objectives of the observance; and

WHEREAS, similarly, Caddo Parish also recognizes its role and responsibilities in addressing and meeting the needs of the community, and even the region, and to protect and enhance the health, well-being and safety of the citizens in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of National Association of Counties President Gary Moore, NACo is demonstrating how "Counties Matter," especially in supporting residents and businesses during the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties/parishes across the country to actively promote programs and services to the public we serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby proclaim the month of April, 2021, as:

'PARISH GOVERNMENT MONTH'

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, in an effort to focus public attention on the role and scope of Caddo Parish Government, in all its aspects, and urging all citizens to recognize and reflect upon the invaluable role that Parish government plays in their lives.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 34 of 2021, a resolution declaring the month of April 2021 as Minority Health Month in Caddo Parish, recognizing*

the health inequalities facing minorities and encouraging the Parish of Caddo to promote and support programs and activities that promote healthfulness in minority communities and other health disparity related to COVID-19, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be adopted.

Mr. Jackson said that this resolution is a national resolution. The Office of Minority Health and Health & Human Services has put out a grant where the Parish could be eligible for \$4M. The parish as a whole was classified as urban because of our population, he said. Mr. Jackson said that it is an education and awareness grant regarding COVID vaccines and testing. He also explained that the grant would be for two years.

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).

RESOLUTION NO. 34 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021 AS MINORITY HEALTH MONTH IN CADDO PARISH, RECOGNIZING THE HEALTH INEQUALITIES FACING MINORITIES, AND ENCOURAGING THE PARISH OF CADDO TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE HEALTHFULNESS IN MINORITY COMMUNITIES AND OTHER HEALTH DISPARITY RELATED TO COVID- 19, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, National Minority Health Month was first recognized nationally by Congress in 2002 with its origin dating back to 1915 with the establishment of National Negro Health Week by Booker T. Washington; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme is "Vaccine Ready," which aims to draw attention to the disproportionate impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on racial and ethnic minority and Native American communities and highlight the need for these communities to be vaccinated as more vaccines become available; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is dedicated to working to improve the health status of minority populations; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission endorses work to eliminate differences in health status between racial and ethnic minority and non-minority populations by providing leadership and guidance on best practices to address racial and ethnic health disparity and specific health needs of racial and ethnic minority groups; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is committed to working to ensure equitable COVID-19 vaccine distribution to the minority residents of Caddo Parish.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, that the month of April 2021 is hereby declared Minority Health Month in Caddo Parish, and the residents of Caddo Parish are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement and to assist in furthering health equity within our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Parish of Caddo will use the month to use its platforms to educate, encourage, and engage Caddo residents on the importance of minority health and health disparities that exist.

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 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. Cawthorne, *that Resolution No. 35 of 2021, a resolution to establish an independent third-party review process at Caddo Parish owned properties or facilities, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be adopted.*

Jackson: Thank you, Mr. President. I haven't said much about it. I did a couple of interviews. I even

asked Mr. Lafitte with the NAACP, and he'll attest to it. When they put it out, take my name off of it because I don't want anybody to think that this is about me. I've heard a lot of conversations. Let me be clear. This is about establishing a process. Let me thank Commission President Lyndon Johnson for sending the letter. But as one of the speakers mentioned, he will not always be the Commission President. John Bel Edwards will not always be the governor. And we will not always have the same State Police Colonel. What this is about is establishing a process by which we are notified. This death happened on March 16. I called Dr. Wilson last week, and he told me that there were not notified of the death until March 29. So even the CEO of the Parish didn't know a death had happened in a facility that we own. So it's not necessarily about CCC, and sheriff's office, as some folks like to spin that narrative out there in the media world. This is not about that. This is about knowing what is going on. The State Legislature—and I argue this point to Dr. Wilson, the State Legislature does not run the day to day operations of LSU campus—Baton Rouge Campus. They have no operational say in the day to day operations of LSU campus. But they are no less than 10 bills filed right now in the legislature requiring a mandate in higher education campuses to deal with sexual assault in the wake of all this stuff that has happened on college campuses, particularly LSU. They don't run the day to day operation but they have oversight and they have accountability to the public. CCC is run on public tax dollars. The Juvenile Detention Center, Clay, public tax dollars; the Parks & Recreation, Mr. Wesley, public tax dollars; Animal Services, Travis, public tax dollars. All these facilities we own. And all we're saying is, if there's a death, we should at least know. And as Commission President pointed out, we shouldn't just rely solely on the internal investigation. We should at least ask, not demand, not require, but aske an external entity to look into it. Who doesn't want somebody to say you got it right. You're in the clear. Now, I've heard all of this, who is responsible for what? Dr. Wilson, who pays the healthcare bills at CCC?

Dr. Wilson: The Parish does.

Jackson: And we adopt that in our dollars. I've been down here harping about this growing every year. Those are y'all's dollars. Isn't the Sheriff reimbursed per inmate per day or per month?

Dr. Wilson: There's allowance fee per inmate per month.

Jackson: so he got an allowance for Mr. Simpson, didn't he? So how do we get to this point where this notion that oops, we have absolutely—we pay the healthcare bills over there y'all. If the man died of a healthcare reason, How can we just walk over and say, well, we're gonna pay his healthcare bills, but we ain't responsible for none of that other stuff. I've heard about HIPAA, Ms. Sabbath, nobody has told you I'm not no lawyer. But you are his next to kin. You can consent. You have the right under 45 CFR HHS. I work in healthcare y'all. So I do a quarterly training on HIPAA. Work in healthcare, quarterly training on what HIPAA is and HIPAA is not. You can request ma'am, and you're owed that because you're his parent. You are entitled to have access to his public health information. Your title today. Mr. Clerk and Deputy clerk, Do y'all have those letters that I had requested me to put up on the screen? We were asking for notice. This is a letter that we get every month telling us what comes in and what comes out. When I did this resolution than anything other than that right there. That's all we're asking for. I would hope we don't get that kind of letter every month. Because if we do something really is going on. I just wanted to get this out. We're not asking for anything that don't seem to already be being done. And I know it's being portrayed with picking on somebody or we're singling somebody out. I give you my word. I'm not singling anybody out. That's why when I talked to Dr. Wilson and his team last week, I said I don't even know how to write this up. But if you look at the resolution, we don't say anybody is right. We don't say anybody is wrong. We just say we want to know what happened. And I realized that we don't have the right to force anybody or the authority to force any entity to tell us, other than Parish entities, to tell us what's going on. Had Ms. Sabbath not put this on her Facebook page, nobody would have known nobody. And so we've got to have standard operating procedures. We cannot just operate on relationships because again this year, we'll do an investigation for Mr. Simpson, but next year, we won't do an investigation for Mrs. John Doe. And we'll just go back and forth, and people never get no peace. So, Ms. Sabbath, I know you're pain. But if for no other reason to give the families—this resolution looks forward. Not back. It looks forward. And that's my hope that we will do is we will look forward to establishing a process and procedure by which we know what's going on. And we get independent eyes looking at everything that took place. Thank you.

Substitute motion by Mr. Atkins, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to table this resolution until Commissioner Johnson's process has finished.*

Atkins: Several people in the audience including Mr. Martin Muhammad mentioned the checks and balances are necessary. I agree with that checks and balances are necessary. The checks and balances are in place. The Caddo Parish Commission, in my mind, is not the body that

should be evaluating law enforcement officers. State Police is the proper body to investigate this issue. The Sheriff, the Mayor, and/or the Caddo Parish President all can request review. So it takes three people that would not be willing to request review, for review not to take place. So any one person cannot prevent the review from taking place. So President Johnson has taken the proper steps he has. He's preparing another letter to the governor. And I think the existing process in place for proper review currently exists. And I don't see the need personally for another process to be to be imposed here. Thank you.

Taliaferro: You know, my address is primarily to Ms. Sabbath and the family of Mr. Simpson. As a former law enforcement officer, I know only too well the pain and the suffering that goes along with the death of a loved one. I've written to my fellow Commissioners, my thoughts on the process. And as Mr. Mohamad stated during his testimony here that it is about focusing on procedures. And I want to tell you that I've thought clearly and hard on this resolution, and I do appreciate president LBJ for bringing this to our attention and then starting the wheels in motion. And I've offered the framework to each of my fellow commissioners to, you know, for free to recording of similar incidents. So if I may, I want to tell you how I feel from a former law enforcement standpoint and also as a person who feels and understand your pain. For majority members of the first responders and military community, there's no greater feeling of sickness or helplessness than to have a person under your care and custody, experience and a serious injury or death, especially on your watch. You know, make no mistake, the death of Mr. Simpson, you know, was tragic and significant to those even those who attempted to save his life, you know, at that time of his death, and it leaves that leaves an imprint on all effective whether we believe it or not. In my experience, the first 48 hours are the most critical during an investigation, especially surrounding a person's death. And that information gleaned from that part of the investigation must be carefully obtained, analyzed and safeguarded until the conclusion of the investigation. When the results are posted by either chief law enforcement officer or in concert with the coroner's office, you know, the in the initial or subsequent stages of any investigation, its chief law enforcement officers prerogative, you know, to enlist assistance from an outside agency, where additional experience or expectation expertise may be necessary and valuable to investigate the case in a timely manner to achieve immediately requesting a third party inquiry, I believe, or an investigator prior to the conclusion of the initial investigation would be premature and detrimental to the overall effectiveness of the responsible law enforcement agency. Now keep in mind, we are we are talking about establishing procedures, just like Commissioner Jackson eloquently stated as well. As with any investigation, as many of you know, that the conclusions are in question by either a family member, a civic organization or government entity such as us, who believed that with cause and their evidence of their own, that an investigation may have been biased or requires an additional investigation to be conducted. Either evidence was missed, or mis represented or misinterpreted. We all have the right and we are encouraged to seek an outside investigative authority to reevaluate the case. So what I'm saying is we are not here to put any roadblocks up on an reinvestigation of any case going forward. My concern is that in the way this resolution is written, it is it is too broad, especially in where it requests the parish administrator to it says a parish administrator request an independent third-party inquiry from a non-Caddo parish law enforcement entity within a 48-hour period. The reason I mentioned that is because in the 48 to 72-hour period, investigations are often not completed. And you as a family member means a family member or as a citizen, and in this body want a thorough investigation. So I've submitted some verbiage that I think will accommodate everything that we want to set forth to make this resolution tight. And and we're focusing on the procedures going forward, not just what happened to Mr. Simpson, but in the event that something happens down the road. You know, we have a solid a solid resolution, which will take us forward to make sure that we do the right things and focus on great good procedures.

Cawthorne: I think when citizens come to this body, there are twelve Commissioners sitting around this horseshoe present a district and we represent people. We can get into the minutiae process had been should work. We look around this country, we begin to see the extraction or the decrease of democracy and the decrease of people being heard. People that came into the day and my heart goes out for the family of Casey Simpson, his mom, and the comments people have made have been heartfelt. And what I want people to do when they leave here today is to have a take-away from the Caddo Parish Commission. That you can away today that that was a two-prong approach that was considered by this body, whether resolution 35 passes or not. So what Commissioner Johnson has done is one thing that we can do looking at this current currently in a contemporary context, and what Mr. Jackson as proposing is looking at what happens as we move down the road. And so when you guys walk out here, you will know that the Caddo Parish Commission heard your voices heard your concerns, and want to address the issue. And you not be confused, and how are we going to move forward when you walk out those doors today. And so once again, I send my heartfelt condolences to the family. But it's always a beautiful thing. When you see the term history of democracy and people coming forward to the man that the people

are still around, it's hard to be responsive to your needs.

Burrell: I'm wanting to sit and listen and try to analyze everybody's viewpoint and try to possibly come up with a solution. But before you can come up with solution, you have to ask questions that hopefully that would be answered in order to come up with a possible solution. So while I was sitting there, listening at all of the discussion around, I came up with three questions. And the first question was, does the resolution nullify or supersede the letter by the president to the government? The second question is, are these competing initiatives for the investigation? The third is after I heard Commissioner Taliaferro mention something about the first 48 hours, so it the time element in this resolution as creating the problem, or is it something else? So, I'm asking, Mr. President, either you can answer that or someone else can answer those questions for me, and I would like to know for clarification.

Johnson: Okay. So this is my opinion. The first question you asked is does the resolution nullify what I've already started. I would say no to that. Are these competing initiatives for an investigation? No. Basically, as I was gonna say, when I got on the board. This being March, I'm going to do a similarity here. This being March Madness. And basically, if you follow basketball, you know about full court press. It's time for a full court press. So as many letters as we can get to request the Sheriff to do that, I think we ought to be doing it. The President of the NAACP is here. They should have a letter. Black Lives Matter. They should have a letter. Any other organizations. They should have letters sent to the Sheriff to request an independent investigation. He can respond to each one of those. If he doesn't respond, we follow the same process. We write that same letter to the to the Governor. The Governor is going to get tired of seeing stuff come from Caddo Parish. So this is not saying that the sheriff did anything wrong. But at the same time, the people that have elected us as Commissioners—and all these people come from different parts of the Parish. they don't all come from one district. They all come from different parts of the Parish. I have heard so many times how people elect us and transparency. I hear about that all the time. I mean, this is some of the common words of the Republican Party is transparency. So this is nothing more than being transparent to the people who have asked, we want to see more than what's already been shown. I think Ms. Sabbath has asked for the video, and that hasn't been produced. She asked for the medical records, that hasn't been produced. She's also asked for the report that the Sheriff has done; that hasn't been produced. Now, I know he was waiting on the Coroner's report as well, but based on what she said, the Coroner reported that it is death by natural causes. She wants to be able to put all of that together and to see. The more people engage and say, we want to see this or we want to have an independent investigation. It puts more pressure to the Sheriff to either to it—and if he refuses, then we move up the chain to the Governor or to other outside agencies that could com do it.

Burrell: Well, basically with your explanation, Mr. President. My first question was answered, it does not nullify, nor does it supersede your letter to the Governor. The second question was, are these competing initiatives? And he said, No. Another thing that you mentioned that more the merrier in order to push this forward? My third question was, is it the time element in here the 48 hours that seemed to call some angst over this? If we can amend that or if we can satisfy that requirement. If that's an obstacle, it appears that there's no reason why this resolution shouldn't go forward. Now that that would be my analysis of the whole thing, because everything has been satisfied, based upon your explanations, President.

Chavez: In doing some investigation on this, I did find out that Mr. Simpson was a Department of Corrections hold, which is a good thing because I know you want to leave here with some answers. And what I mean by that is, in the information, I gathered, the Department of Corrections fall from the state of Louisiana, so I was advised that the state police are going to do an investigation, regardless of what happens here. So as Commissioner Cawthorne stated, when we leave out of here, there's going to be state police that will be launched an investigation via the Department of Corrections. And simultaneously from the President's letter that he thankfully already wrote. So I don't want you to leave here thinking that, regardless, if it passes, or does not pass Commissioner Jackson's resolution, there are parts of it, that I definitely want to support, that we definitely need transparency. But I think that it's rushed in the manner that we have not got with our legal got with the sheriff's department figured out the state statute on the on the prison who's ultimately responsible with the dealings within to figure out if this is the best way going forward. So I definitely want you to have the answers. And just like Commissioner Jackson said, personally, that he'll help you get this data. So will I. you can reach out to me. I want to know how you can get that camera data. I want to help you get the information that you have. So if you get no other answers, feel free to call me all day long. This was your baby. And I understand that this is hard. I understand what you're what you're going through. Trust me, I've been exactly where your baby was. I know exactly what he went through. So I just don't think at this time, that that I'm willing to pass this, that I think labeling it and waiting at least a week or

two, to find out what the state investigations comes in. If it comes suspicious, I'm gonna be right there with you demanded that they pass this. But I still am not comfortable enough to mandate that we pass this until the sheriff had to do his job. And I'm being honest with you. I've talked to a lot of people. And they think that this specific case, that there was no foul play. And I'm just telling you what I heard. But I agree that transparency needs to happen. So I don't want you to leave here to think that that that this failed. There're two routes going forward, where I believe that the investigation is going to go forward. And you can you're going to get the answer. We're going to get the answers. And I applaud you Mr. Jackson for bringing this forward. Because ultimately, this will start the conversation where we will achieve transparency at CCC and I'm speaking if this doesn't pass. It may pass. But I just want you to leave here feeling comforted.

Jackson: Mr. President, I just want to note for the record to emphatically answer Commissioner Burrell's question. This resolution does not compete. I agree. We need a full court press. But I want to be very clear. This resolution covers all of Caddo Parish. I keep hearing the Sheriff's Office. This covers all of Caddo Parish. this is a policy, by tableing it, we still won't have a policy in place. If we table this, there's still no policy put in place. And how long can the investigation take? John Bel Edwards is trying to deal with a pandemic. He's got a legislative session that starts next Monday. We need a policy in place. Long term sustainable.

Johnson:

Young: Since this is a controversial issue, I just wanted to be strict about what we're voting on. There's four short sentences if there's a death on Caddo parish property. We are the supervisors of Caddo parish property full stop, right. Nobody else supervise this Caddo parish property but us and the people we employed to do it, were elected to do that. If somebody dies on Caddo parish property, we must be notified. I suppose that means calling Dr. Wilson, or Ms. Bryant, they take calls at all hours because they know that's their job within 24 hours. Everyone has a smartphone in their pocket, that is no difficulty. Or the next of kin can notify us. Second sentence: The parish administrator will request an independent third party to review within 48 hours. This doesn't interfere with any ongoing investigation because the parish administrator is making the request and he's not doing any investigating. If Mr. Taliaferro is correct, and the first 48 hours are important than the first week is important, and so we might as well get the ball moving on our request for an investigation, whether it's an event that takes place at fleet services for in the finance department, or the jail. Next two sentences are pretty simple. We'll be notified of the findings of the review either privately or publicly, and the public will be notified of the review unless other circumstances prevent it. This seems normal. I'm surprised as a new Commissioner, to know that there isn't a process for notifying us when someone dies on our property. Whether we share management of that property with someone else or not. It seems necessary to our role as supervisors of parish property. It seems abnormal not to have a process. If something happens tomorrow, we need to have a process. And this is a perfectly fine process. If it turns out there's some kind of a problem, which I can't imagine when we can amend it through our normal processes. So I'm going to vote in favor of this

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 35 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT THIRD-PARTY REVIEW PROCESS AT CADDO PARISH OWNED PROPERTIES OR FACILITIES, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Parish Commission is committed to transparency with the public at large;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in the case of a death in or deriving from a parish-owned property facility, the following are required:

1. Notification to the Parish Commission within 24hrs of the death or next of kin can notify the Parish Commission within 30 days.
2. Parish Administrator to request independent 3rd party inquiry from a non- Caddo Parish law enforcement entity on behalf of the Parish Commission within 48 hours.
3. Findings of review to be reported back to Caddo Parish Commission in either executive or open session.
4. Report must be made available to the public unless other circumstances prevent.

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 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. Hopkins, *that Resolution No. 36 of 2021, a resolution amending unsuspending 2020 funds to Grace Project and amending the scope of Grace Project agreement, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Jackson said that this budget neutral, and they have unspent funds that they need to carryover.

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).

RESOLUTION NO. 36 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

RESOLUTION AMENDING TO GRACE PROJECT SCOPE OF GRACE PROJECT AGREEMENT, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, Grace Project, Inc. was approved for \$8000.00 in NGO funds in 2020 for economic development; and

WHEREAS, the COVID19 pandemic struck in early 2020, causing the suspension of NGO funding; and

WHEREAS, Grace Project, Inc. continued its community and economic development initiatives and provided services to its surrounding low-income community to fill in gaps in services caused by the COVID19 pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that Caddo Parish wishes to expand the scope of Grace Project Inc.'s services in 2020 to include food and education services.

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 this resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Burrell suggested that the discussion be started regarding broadband. He asked that President Johnson create an ad-hoc committee to discuss this.
- Mr. Jackson thanked the Clerk of the Commission for organizing an informative Q&A

session regarding the Rental Assistance Program. He did say that there were some concerns regarding the lottery system that is in place with the program. Other than that, he has not received any complaints.

There was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk


Lyndon B. Johnson
President