

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 18TH DAY OF MAY, 2020

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:34 p.m., via Zoom teleconference, with Mr. Chavez, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). ABSENT: (0).

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

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

There was one Agenda Addition from Commissioner Epperson, a Special Proclamation Observing Monday, May 25, 2020 as Memorial Day in Caddo Parish.

Mr. Chavez asked if there were any public comments for or against the agenda addition and invited anyone interested in commenting to call 318-226-6596. There were none.

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, to expand the agenda to include consideration of the Special Proclamation Observing May 25, 2020 as Memorial Day in Caddo Parish.

At this time Mr. Chavez' motion carried as shown by the following roll call vote: AYES: Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young. (11) ABSENT: Burrell (1)

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Ms. Jon Glover submitted the following statement:

*The language of Resolution 32 of 2020 left me puzzled. "A RESOLUTION URGING AND REQUESTING THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW LOCAL PLANNING AND ZONING ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED BY LOCAL GOVERNING ENTITIES AND OPPOSING LEGISLATION TO THE CONTRARY AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO," quite disturbing. By now, there is knowledge of House Bill No. 697 which I believe prompted Resolution 32 of 2020.*

*Never did I imagine that we would have cleared two steps in the legislature but we did, with Friday's 63 yeas and 31 nays, House Bill 697 is moving on to the step and I give thanks to Representative Danny McCormick for authoring this bill.*

*Resolution 32 of 2020 leaves implication that "local governing entities" weren't allowed to address what House Bill No. 697 dictates. Well I thought why not make sure this Resolution isn't speaking untruth. So I did a little bit of investigating; visiting those meetings of the Caddo Parish Commission archive. In those videos, evidence of dissatisfaction of an overreach of the Metropolitan Planning Commission's Unified Development Code was addressed.*

*I guess no one really thought that voices would come together for a common purpose, to ensure that property rights of citizens, property owners in rural Caddo Parish weren't being violated. See, the violation was when the very codes, UDC, developed for property owners of the City of Shreveport being imposed on property owners of rural Caddo Parish. Never quite appreciating these actions, voices came together, planned, strategized and developed a plan that would address these practices.*

*Representative Danny McCormick interest resulted in voices being heard, House Bill No. 697. House Bill No. 697 purpose was direct, stop the overreach of the MPC and the UDC that was not established to govern the citizens, property owners of rural Caddo Parish, but property owners of the City of Shreveport.*

*Every effort, voice, was extended to allow any and every entity to address the concerns of citizens, property owners of rural Caddo Parish and no one said anything until now, why?*

*What House Bill No. 697 does too is now leave the process, developing codes solely for rural Caddo Parish, no more, no less. See, it has never been that no governing was appreciated by the citizens, property owners of rural Caddo Parish but make those codes germane to rural Caddo Parish only.*

*God bless you all as you make that very important decision.*

Ms. Jessica Tullis and Mr. Jake Brown submitted the following statement:

*Caddo Alliance for Freedom is in opposition of Resolution No. 32. A lot of misinformation is floating around concerning House Bill 697. Like Big Government the "State" will be in charge. This is*

*nothing but a lie being spread by a few vested individuals. In simple terms all House Bill 697 does is reinstate the power back into our elected officials our Caddo Commissioners. Essentially smaller local government, by "our" elected officials. In 1954 when the Metropolitan Planning Commission was formed Shreveport was a growing city and the Act allowed up to five miles to be planned and managed jointly by an appointed MPC Board. The unincorporated area in the 5-mile zone surrounding the City of Shreveport was the only reason the Caddo Commission had any influence on appointments to the MPC Board. City Council already represents the City of Shreveport's needs and concerns and The Caddo Commissioners were included to represent the rural 5-mile zone surrounding Shreveport. This has not worked out for the rural citizens in the unincorporated area due to our voice and vote being diminished by the City of Shreveport's inherent power on the City Council, MPC Board and the Caddo Commission. Some are claiming we want the "Wild Wild West" others say that House Bill 697 will cost the Caddo Commission way too much money. Currently, Caddo Parish Commission funds approximately \$200,000 of the Metropolitan Planning Commission Budget, which we believe is more than enough. Caddo Alliance for Freedom understands the need for some type of planning & zoning in the 5 mile area and believe this can be managed by our elected Caddo Commissioners paying a third party to help draft and implement a simple plan that represents the rural characteristics of our area.*

*Powerful people are trying to quite the voices of rural citizens that are being taken advantage of and currently not represented. Some Commissioners are connected to our current mayor, some to Cedric Glover who orchestrated the 2030 Master Plan, and one was a past President of the Committee of 100. These powerful people and this Committee have only the elite business owners of Shreveport/Bossier in mind and not the citizens. Ask yourself if the Committee of 100 has done such a great job with Shreveport's growth for the past 5 decades then why did Wallethub's study rank Shreveport the last and worst city to begin a career. Caddo Alliance for Freedom's main goal at the beginning of our movement was to educate the people on the 2030 Master Plan and the UDC. Now we will follow the money and connections and where it ties into our elected and appointed officials. We will help uncover the intentions of their votes.*

Mr. Durwood Hendricks, on behalf of the Zoning Board of Appeals submitted the following comments:

*This correspondence is in regard to the expiring term of one of our most valued and experienced board members, Mr. Alan Berry. He has proven to be a reliable, dedicated and dependable board member for more than a decade.*

*Alan Berry was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) by the Parish Commission in 2008 and served as Chairman from March 11, 2009 until December 2018. He is a native of Shreveport and a graduate of both C. E. Byrd High School and Centenary College, where he earned a B.A. degree in Technical Theatre. Mr. Berry is an Eagle Scout and a Veteran of the U.S. Army. His career in theatrical production for Broadway shows and tours has taken him around the world. Since 2006, Mr. Berry has been the Technical Director at Centenary College's Marjorie Lyons Playhouse.*

*During his tenure on the ZBA, Mr. Berry has provided a great deal of experience, knowledge, and leadership. His knowledge of the entire planning area, the zoning code, and best planning practices has assisted him in providing great insight to the board when deliberating complex and controversial cases.*

*With many of the current board members being relatively new appointees, the board had relied very heavily on his leadership. Mr. Berry has endeavored to be aggressively neutral in all of his input and analysis of cases. His commitment to being consistent in the evaluation of cases has been exemplary.*

*Mr. Berry's attendance record is impeccable. His recent attendance is as follows: He has missed only 2 meetings in 2016, one meeting in 2017, attended every meeting in 2018, missed one meeting in 2019 and has attended every meeting in 2020.*

*On behalf of the Zoning Board of Appeals, we urge you to reappoint Mr. Berry to another term on our board. We believe that having him continue to serve with us is vital to the future of our board in providing outstanding service to Caddo Parish and its citizens.*

*In his current capacity as Vice-Chairman, I rely heavily on his leadership, wisdom, experience and knowledge and skill in regard to assisting in maintaining order and rule compliance during meetings.*

*As Chairman of the ZBA, I appreciate your careful consideration, Also signing this correspondence are Fred Moss, IV; Cynthia Pearson; Marshall Ferrell; and Brittney Dunn.*

#### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Dr. Wilson shared that work has commenced on safety measures in the Chamber to reduce the chances of exposure to Covid-19. He shared that there are plexiglass partitions and seats have been zip tied so that each available seat is socially distanced from the next possible seat. Dr. Wilson

continues that the Parish is implementing their plan where employees and visitors are required to wear a mask in Government Plaza, and we are in line with proper CDC protocols.

Commissioner Burrell inquired if temperature testing to come in the building would be a part of the protocol. Dr. Wilson confirmed that scanners had been ordered and this would be a part of the protocol.

### **CERTIFICATE FOR TELECONFERENCE**

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana has issued Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2020, stating that, due to the current Public Health emergency declared in the Governor's Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020, and citing the provisions of La. R.S. 29:721, et seq., granting him the authority to control the "ingress and egress to and from a disaster, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein; and

WHEREAS, the Governor, in Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2020, has limited all gatherings of 10 or more people, for public safety purposes; and

WHEREAS, Governor has issued a general stay at home order "unless performing an essential activity," 33 JBE 2020, Section 3; and

WHEREAS, attendance at a Caddo Parish Commission Work Session meeting is not stated in the list of essential activities, listed in 33 JBE 2020, Section 3; and

WHEREAS, the usual conduct of the meeting would require travel and the presence of a number of persons in excess of ten (10); and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State, in Proclamation Number 30 JBE 2020, Section 4, issued on March 16, 2020, has invoked the aforementioned statutes authorizing him to allow attendance at essential governmental meetings via teleconference or video conference during the pendency of this emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State, in Proclamation Number 41 JBE 2020, Section 13, issued on April 2, 2020, has extended the Stay-At-Home Order until Thursday, April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards extended the Stay- At-Home Order until May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

THEREFORE, the Caddo Parish Commission here by certifies that it will not be able to obtain a quorum and convene a meeting in a public forum on May 4, 2020 due to the Governor's proclamations, and will be required to meet by video conference, and, if necessary teleconference, on that date as allowed by law and the Proclamations of the Governor listed above.

Date: May 15, 2020

/s/Mario Chavez, President

### **COMMISSION REMARKS**

- Dr. Wilson provided the Commissioners with a copy of the monthly financials for April 2020.

- The Clerk of the Commission noted that Mr. Robert Baucum, member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, submitted his letter of resignation. Term to expire April 10, 2023.

- Mr. Young asked Dr. Wilson about a ditch in Dixie Garden that needs to be cleared to help drain that area. Dr. Wilson replied that he would check to make sure.

Mr. Young continued by asking fellow Commissioners if they received requests for speed bumps, and how they responded. Dr. Wilson confirmed that the Parish has a pattern of not doing speed bumps, since they have not had good results with them in the past. Mr. Young inquired about rumble strips on the side of the road. Mr. Chavez shared that he reached out to SPD, and they put out the mobile speed trap in his district, which helped. Mr. Young confirmed that Mr. Tim Weaver is requesting the Sheriff to do something similar.

- Mr. Burrell requested clarification about speed bump policy in the Parish. Dr. Wilson explained that they had had more complaints than benefits with them and they can damage vehicles, so the practice has been not to use them for many years.

- Mr. Atkins shared that grooved cement (rumble strips) did slow traffic, but the noise made by them created a lot of complaints.

- Mr. Hopkins pointed out that the Uniform Traffic Control Manual suggested not using speed bumps or rumble strips, but making the speed limit correct and enforcement.

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Mr. Chavez reported that he has heard concerns regarding Dixie League and Little League Baseball. He asked that Dr. Wilson confirm the dates that the City will reopen baseball. He also requested that Administration look into possibly utilizing Parish parks for baseball.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Taliaferro**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Resolution No. 31 of 2020, a resolution to proclaim May 22, 2020 as National Maritime Day and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Taliaferro explained the importance of the role the Merchant Marine's play in our military and this gives us an opportunity to recognize and thank them for their important service.

At this time, Mr. Taliaferro's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, and seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Resolution No. 32 of 2020, a resolution urging and requesting the Louisiana Legislature to allow local planning and zoning issues to be resolved by local governing entities an opposing legislation to the contrary and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Jackson appreciated the comments objecting to this resolution. He stated that he watched the Legislature hearing online with Attorney Bernstein. Mr. Jackson expressed that he thought the Parish was being responsive to these concerns and had scheduled meetings in the Northern part of the Parish to reach out and develop a plan that all sides could agree on. He asked if this is an outright prohibition of any planning or zoning. He also asked that this process go forward. Mr. Jackson also pointed out that the Committee of 100 and the Chamber of Commerce are opposing this bill as well. Mr. Jackson continued that this would have implications across the Parish, not just in the northern and southern parts of the Parish. He said that it may discourage businesses wanting to bring jobs into the area. He asked that the local process be given the chance to play out and clarifies that he has made comments about the 5 mile radius, but not in regards to the Parish not being a part of the MPC.

Mr. Burrell stated that the House Parochial Affairs Committee will usually lean towards the local area, if they have support. He questioned the progress of the legislation at this point. Mr. Burrell also had questions regarding the 5-mile buffer zone around the City of Shreveport. He understands that the City's borders are not concentric, and some of the development right outside the City uses city services. It is his understanding the MPC being involved in areas that may want to be annexed at some point or that use city services.

Mr. Lazarus explained that the bill passed the full House 63-31 and has moved to the Senate. Mr. Lazarus asked Mr. Jackson why he changed his mind since his comments during the March 5th Regular Session when he said that if he had his way, he would approve HB 697 today.

Mr. Jackson thanked Mr. Lazarus for the question and said that he was being facetious and that he was laughing when he made that comment. Mr. Jackson said that "it was a joke". Mr. Chavez asked for clarification. Mr. Jackson said that his statements made during the March 5<sup>th</sup> Regular Session were satirical.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if the bill were to pass the Senate, if the locals have to approve it before anything is effectuated. Mr. Lazarus responded that the issue was that the Caddo Parish Commission did not have the authority to expand, extend or remove the 5-mile planning zone. He further explained that this bill would give back the authority to the Commission to modify the 5-mile planning zone. He also explained that currently, the State has that authority.

Mr. Hopkins the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) will have the City of Shreveport; and in the year 2022, the Caddo Commission would have the ability to set up its own planning board. He further stated that it would not exclude the Commissioner from contracting with the MPC. Other municipalities and incorporated areas have planning boards, but the Parish planning board would be able to handle the planning for the unincorporated areas of the Parish. He also said that the people on the body told the Caddo Alliance for Freedom that they needed to get this bill put in place. He also pointed out that it passed 9-5-1 in committee, then passed in the House. He said that they did what they felt necessary to address their concerns.

Mr. Johnson believes that this should stay with local government. He also said that some people think the Unified Development Code (UDC), MPC, and the City of Shreveport are controlling this and the Parish does not have a role a, but that is not the case. He also pointed out that the Parish does not have a unified code, because the Parish UDC is different from the City's. He stated that it was his understanding that the goal was to amend the Parish ordinance and get it right, not to scrap it. He also

pointed out that he knew there were issues from the start of this process and he delayed the adoption for six to eight months to review those issues for the Parish. He pointed out that committee meetings have already been set up, and the Commission should let those take place. In my opinion we should send this up as a request and maybe the Senate will kill it, Mr. Johnson said.

Mr. Jackson stated that on November 18, 2019, an Agenda Addition was made by Commissioner Dominick and seconded by Mr. Johnson to expand the agenda to add that the Zoning Administrator would suspend enforcement of Section 8.10 until such time that the Commission can address this issue. He also pointed out that everyone who were there voted in favor of that. Mr. Clark agreed with them and was open to looking into the citizens' concerns. Mr. Jackson stated that he thinks the bill usurps local authority.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, and Taliaferro. (8). NAYS: Commissioners Burrell, Chavez, Lazarus, and Young. (4). ABSENT: None (0). 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, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson and Taliaferro (8). NAYS: Commissioners Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus and Young (4). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Resolution No. 33 of 2020, a resolution to authorize the acceptance of the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

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

- *Resolution No. 33 of 2020, a resolution to authorize the acceptance of the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire*
- *Appointment to Water Works District No. 7 Board*
- *Special Proclamation of May as Women's Health Month*
- *Special Proclamation observing May 25<sup>th</sup> as Memorial Day in Caddo*

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Epperson requested to do a special invocation during Thursday's Regular Session to address Memorial Day.
- Mr. Young requested that Legal provide additional information in regards to House Bill 697. Attorney Frazier stated that she will send a memo to the Commissioners explaining the actuality of this particular bill.
- Mr. Jackson requested a Long Range Planning Committee to be scheduled to discuss the issues related to planning in the 5-mile zone.

He also noted that there was a conference call from the Police Jury Association (PJAL) regarding the CARES Act funding. He does not want Caddo to miss out on any opportunity to help address the impact of COVID-19. Mr. Jackson also said that some of the NGO issues may be resolved through the CARES Act.

Mr. Jackson announced that there is a testing tomorrow at Cherokee Park Elementary from 10 AM until 3 PM. He also said that the testing for Galilee has been rescheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup>. He thanked Administration, Krystle Beauchamp, and Tim Weaver for all of their hard work with the mobile testing. He pointed out that the one in Mr. Cawthorne's District was a success.

Mr. Jackson also asked for prayers for Ms. Connie Arnold, who coordinates this program. He said that she was shot while walking down Dudley Street.

He also asked to keep Dr. Martha Whyte in their prayers. He said that her husband was released from the hospital and also had to deal with her mother's passing which was unrelated to Covid-19.

- Mr. Burrell asked for some additional explanation about HB 697. Mr. Chavez reminded him that Attorney Frazier will be providing a memo explaining the legislation in detail.
- Mr. Cawthorne announced that there is another Covid-19 testing event at Morningstar Baptist Church, 5340 Jewella St, scheduled for this Thursday from 10 AM until 3 PM. It will be hosted by 100 Men of Shreveport, LSU Health Services, and another group.

He also announced that the testing event that was held last Wednesday at Hattie Perry Park in the Caddo Heights/Hollywood area was a success. He said that 153 people were tested. He thanked the National Guard, LSU, and 100 Men of Shreveport for their help in the event.

- Mr. Jackson requested that Attorney Frazier include a cost analysis in her memo regarding HB 697.
- Mr. Burrell asked about numbers from the mobile COVID-19 testing. Mr. Jackson said that Dr. Kevil and Dr. Yurochiko will provide some feedback. He also said that it has been well received and at least 1200 to 1500 tests have been given.
- Mr. Atkins echoed Mr. Jackson's desire to have information regarding the cost implications of the changes to planning that would result from HB 697.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS (LATE ARRIVALS)**

Mr. Chris Krackman spoke by phone and said he was listening and he wants to clear up that if you want clarification it would behoove you all to actually read the bill yourself and not take someone else's reading of it. He's seen the letter from the Committee of 100 and it is filled with misinformation. The bill is very clear and really isn't that complicated. To get a cost analysis on it all you have to do is look at what we are paying for the MPC right now. It has been between \$200,000 and \$280,000 and with all the work they are doing outside the city, we all know that they are going to ask for more than \$300,000 and if that's not enough money to start a citizen's committee in its place and have an authority to do planning and zoning, then he doesn't know what is. I think it would behoove everyone to read it themselves and some of you told us to do this and it goes to tell me that the board isn't together on all this. The Caddo Alliance for Freedom has been going door to door and talking to your constituents and they want this and you should be about serving your constituents and not about pleasing a committee with no chair in public service whatsoever.

Mr. David Williams submitted the following statement:

*I am against any proposition that circumvents the legislation passed this last week concerning the MPC and city of Shreveport. I do not want anyone associated with the city of Shreveport or the MPC having jurisdiction over rural Caddo Parish. Not one foot nor five miles! We already have protection in place and a system to protect us.*

Mr. Robert Tucker submitted the following statement:

*I am a west Shreveport resident , rural Caddo Jefferson Paige Rd. I have spoken a lot of folks in west Shreveport who to say the least are upset by the codes and laws y'all have put on rural residents. I attended the meeting at pine hill baptist on pines road that CAF had, you could not park another car in the parking lot, hundreds showed up. If you'll would have taken the time to come you would know this is much more that just North Caddo. Stephen Jackson told the people to take it to the state so we did now he has amnesia to that fact, it is a matter of video and was done at the commission meeting, the same meeting Jackson said he has no dog in the hunt. West Shreveport is highly involved!!*

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Ordinance No. 5956 of 2020, an ordinance authorizing an expenditure for the Reserve Trust Fund for the year 2020 to provide LSUHSC an appropriation of up to \$175,000.00 to perform COVID 19 testing and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5957 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation for Project Grace and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5958 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of ESTIMATED Revenues and Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation for Southern University and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Confirm appointment to the zoning board of appeals. Term to expire April 30, 2025.*
  1. *Alan Berry*

Work Session Minutes  
May 18, 2020

2. *Huey Horn*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

/s/Jeff Everson  
Jeff Everson  
Commission Clerk