

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF  
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 22ND DAY OF JULY, 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. Atkins, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Young (2).

The invocation was given by Pastor Bruce Carroll, and Mr. Epperson led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Bonnie Pharr came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

Good afternoon, I would like to ask the Commission, how many of you have a copy of the Constitution. If you don't have a copy of the Constitution, I have one for you. And I suggest that you read it, because you're out of order. The first time I spoke to this body, some of you were not even hired, then I reminded this body that you are our employees, and you're on our payroll, and you were elected to serve and protect our rights, not dictate what we do. I'm here today to ask you to read this federal Constitution, and your state constitution. If you've read it. Did you understand it. If not, did you bother to study it. Do you have a copy of the Constitution? I'm not supposed to ask you, even though you're one of my employees. And you're one of the rests of us, employees as well. When the creator creates anything. the creator, then, is subject to the createe. When you start looking God created man, man created the state. The states created the Federal Government, the city, the state and the federal government are all under man. That is us. The federal government is under the state, not the other way around. Government was created for one purpose only, and that was to protect our inalienable God given the rights not government rights. Keep in mind that any law created outside our constitution is criminal. And it brings with its criminal penalties. When the government, beginning with the local up to the federal firearms law's contrary to our constitution. We do not have to comply. I'm reading that again. When the government, beginning with the local to the federal firearms laws, contrary to our constitution. We do not have to comply. Today is that we will not comply. We will not comply with any law mandate, or any other unconstitutional. Saying that you want to call it. Do you have any questions about your constitutional responsibility? If you do read your constitution.

Percy Jones, Jr. came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Percy Jones Jr. 461 Kemper Street, Shreveport, LA. No relation to Jackie Jones by the way. Although we do say all Jones are related. I'm here briefly to speak in support of ordinance involving urban this labor of urban gardening 14 and 14.1. I've given an outline of our proposal. I represent the Cedar Grove Neighborhood Association. And what you have is a proposal that we submitted to the Mayor when he came around and was asking for comments from the public. The cedar grove neighborhood association has endorsed and support the plan we have. It's a project I've been working on for about five years. We presented this to the School Board because it's going to take a collaborative effort. There is a scripture in the bible that in paraphrasing says 'despise thou not small beginnings. Today on your agenda items is a small beginning but it can grow to be a big project. My family has been in farming since the early 1900s. I know farming. My father did a garden in Cedar Grove when I was growing up. Mr. Johnson, that's-Commissioner Johnson that's why I don't have a garden now. I spent every weekend spending extra time we had having to water that garden, break that garden up, and do all the things necessary. But I shared with Antoine White with the Police Department that my dad with his garden helped to reduce the crime in Cedar Grove. He did that because when we called the thugs and the bad actors would come to get his vegetables for their parents and grandparents. To get them they had to listen to his sermon. And then they had to listen to his sermon then they had to promise they wouldn't do what they did again. And Dad would say I don't know if I want you eat my greens. It may make you act worse. And they would promise that they wouldn't. Plus, I know the role of gardening and farming in the community. One reason why we support it is that a lot of young men coming back from incarceration. They need jobs. If they can't get jobs I want you to know those of us that live in the City are going to suffer the wrath. The whole city is going to suffer the wrath in particularly those living in the city. So, we see urban farming as a way of providing jobs. Many of them have learned farming in the institutions. So, they come back as a skill they can readily transfer. But we look different from urban gardening. Because we're focused more on the economic aspect. For the last five years, I've been working and researching on the distribution. When it comes to farming it's easy to grow. If you've been in gardening it's pretty easy. But its that distribution. So, we've been working to create a fact so Mr. Allen Clark here we just got two temporary permits to create two inner city farmers markets. One in Cedar Grove and one in the Allendale area. So, we're asking you to support it. We'll ask you to extend it. I know-I'm sorry. So, we're asking you to extend it. I know you've allocated about 20,000 to 40, 000 that extended to include Cedar Grove in other areas. WE talked to a coalition of neighborhood associations just last night representing MLK, Queensborough and Lakeside and they're interested. So, we feel that we're going to make a pitch to the City, but we fell that-we thank the Parish for the leadership and the steps that you've taken. And if you support it and you expand it then we can expand it throughout. We talked to the school board about incorporating more farming

techniques through 4-H. 4-H primarily deals with cattle and things now. But it can deal with farming and gardening. So, that's our proposal. We ask for your support. We ask you to expand what you're prepared to do to include the urban farming as well. Any questions? Great, Thank you.

Pastor Bruce Carroll came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

Bruce Carroll 249 West 84th Street, Shady Grove Church and also the Antioch Church. I come also in addition to ditto some things our fellow brother shared in regards to urban gardening. We also are in conversation and planning and wanting to also provide a garden on some properties that we have at the Antioch Church and the Shady Grove Church. So, in your talking and in your briefing we're in support what you're doing. We just ask that you add more funding in order we might be able to provide those, that garden also in our community. Thank you.

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

Good afternoon. Lester Smith, 4148 Theo Street. I'm here on behalf of the Trail Riders Association and one in particular, Ghost Riders 318. 318 Ghost Riders Riding Club. We had a trail ride last month and we came up against a lot of opposition, but with the help of Commissioner Epperson. We got what we needed done and we had a successful ride. And I just want, you know, do a report as to trail riding is not all bad. It's the people that you allowed to do the trail ride. We had our safe guards in place and everything went perfectly and 318 is a riding club. African-American men and women and they give back to the community. We have a list of things that we do in the community. As I speak we're planning a ride now to stop the violence. Just haven't picked out an area where we want to ride yet. We have to get permission. We have to follow the protocol. But we just want to say that we did the ride on some land that my family owned. And it's making use of the land that would just be growing up and to give people something to do. Young children and young adults who are not out just to do the negativity that we, all of us, get painted with that broad brush when it comes to trail riding. And a lot of the guys in trail ride we have adhered to the rules that you put in place and look like nothing we do is enough. Because there's already always stipulations and rule changes. But I just want to say we ride horses because we like to ride horses and people have been riding horses in the City and in Parish since I can remember as a little boy. And there's never been a problem until we started to ride. And I understand that there's some negative and some negative things that go on in trail riding. But everybody is not a part of the negative and don't paint us all with that broad brush that you use to say we got a 1% that's acting the clown and the rest of us are good law-abiding citizens want to do the right thing. And try to do the right thing, but we get painted with that brush that we're all the same. And we're not. Nothing could be further from the truth. And I just want to say 318 is a riding club with responsible men's and women and we're trying to do some equine training with the young people. Therapy for our young people. Because we got to try to find a solution to do something to help our inner-city youth. And this is a program that we use to bring kids out. I can't even ride my horse in the park, because I don't get to ride, because kids run to the horse and I got to get off the horse to protect the kids from the horse. And I end up being tired in the park just going on a leisure ride me and my horse then I do when we do trail rides five and ten miles. Because you got to let every kid touch the horse. You got to let every kid ride the horse. You got to let every adult come up and look "oh how pretty, oh how this". And that's something that we need to consider things that are positive in the community. We need to allow those things to exist without all these rules and regulations in place. So, I just want to say we had a good time. Sherriff was out supporting us and we thank you guys. Thank you.

Kim Calippy came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

I'm the secretary for 318 Ghost Riders. I want to reiterate some of the things that Mr. Lester Smith said. We are 318 Ghost Riders. We were established in 2015 in Mooringsport. My President is Mr. Raymond Smith and he has zero tolerance for disrespect and violence. We have done more for the community than just the partying. And I hate that ultra-rider clubs are in that box. As he was saying, we had a good turnout for June 26th on Jefferson Paige Road. There was no violence. We had Sherriff's presence from, I think, 5 pm to midnight. We opened gates at 10 pm. So, from 10 p to 5 pm there was nothing from 5 pm to midnight. But it also had to do with the fact that we policed everyone. We made sure that everyone felt safe. If there was a problem we addressed it right then. And as far as my club, as far as giving back, we've adopted a nursing home-Southern Hills Nursing Home. We haven't been able to do so much now since the COVID but we're hoping to get back to it. But once or twice a month we've gone over there doing the nails of the occupants and playing dominoes with the guys. They like trail ride dancing. I'm not very good at it but I try it. We also we have done back school drives, giving school supplies away. We fed the homeless. We've also offered clothes to the homeless. And I just want you to know that everybody's not the same. It's all about the group of people that you have. We have a lot of young members and a lot of them have graduated from high school. They're either in the service now or they're in the army and they still participate. We have members that are in Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi. They just like us because we're a fun club. Yes, we have fun. We party. We dance, but we're also about business. And if there's anything that we can do in the community, if you get in touch with me Lester Smith, my President Raymond Smith, Mr. Epperson, we'll do anything. Especially with this violence going on. Because we're losing too many of our younger kids. That's why we're talking about doing something with the stop the violence. A lot of people like riding horses. I haven't learned how but we want-we just want them to know

there are more things that you can do other than the violence. And other than running the street. That you can have healthy clean fun and be safe. And we should all be able to feel safe. And so that's all I want to say. I'm not scared. I have a horse. I hope she's pregnant. I have a horse I just I'm scared to fall. Thank you.

Candy Peavy came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

Good afternoon I'm Candy Peavey, Shreveport, La, 71106. I want to talk to you all about fear. Because so many of the decisions we are making personally and as a society today are really driven by fear. And I have to admit, I've been scared of this virus. I've seen the same news stories as all of you and I know people who have suffered greatly and some who have died. But I also know that now, a year and half after it first hit our country and hundreds of scientific studies later, we know an awful lot more than we did before. And we all have reason not to be so fearful. We know that children have literally almost zero risk of death. And we know that everyone under age 70 who is in good health with no other co-morbidities such as high blood pressure, obesity, chronic lung disease and diabetes, have a very high survival rate. We know we need to primarily focus on protecting the elderly and those with comorbidities. In fact, and this is really important so please listen to these statistics, using our federal government's health and human services COVID death data SARSCovi2 has an overall survivability rate of 99.8% globally. Which increases to 99.97% for persons under the age of 70. This is consistent with the seasonal flu. It is super survivable. But the really big news for us is that now we have lots more knowledge and expertise with preventing severe disease and hospitalizations. We know how to treat this disease. We now have extremely safe and effective treatments for COVID if we start early treatment. Early treatment is the key. I've seen it over and over. I'm a physical therapist by the way. My husband's a physician. You may not have heard about the successful and effective COVID treatments because our mainstream media and social media censors this information. But I can swear to you on my scared honor life-saving treatments are widely available, especially early. So, we don't have to be so afraid of this virus and that's really key. We don't have to be afraid and we don't need masks. We don't mask and have never masked for seasonal flu. And remember, I said health and human services stats on this virus are consistent with seasonal flu. So, I'd like to leave you today with this statement. Its not the governments job to protect my health. It's the government's job to protect my rights. It's my job to protect my health when you trade liberty for safety you end up losing both. I hope what I've said today will encourage all of you to decide not to mandate masks. WE truly have nothing to fear but fear itself. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

Robin Greene came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

I would like to share some information provided by Dr. Bebek Amen who is leading anesthesiologist in Australia. Dr. Amen recently discussed decades of pre-COVID data and 18 dates of COVID-era data that failed to show the benefits of wearing masks. Two studies in particular showed no appreciable benefit in mask wearing particularly in respiratory viruses. Non-mask wearers and mask wearers were essentially the same in the rate of infection. One of the studies that I'm referencing is the Dan Mask Study with over 6,000 participants. Observational data from first world countries have shown that the rate of infection before and after mask mandate is essentially the same. There are studies that claim to show benefits of mask wearing however the studies are fraught with errors in methodology such as using mask wearing and hand washing as a measurement of the efficacy of masks alone. Even then the studies were only able to show mild to moderate benefit. The studies have been publicly criticized by many experts. One of the arguments that's provided by the research in favor of masks is that it stops forward-moving airflow. The problem is that the study also shows that the air is then pushed out of the sides, back and top of masks. Pushing molecules all over the room the mask wearer is in. There is also evidence that mask wearing is causing harm. A peer-reviewed paper in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health shows that mask wearing causes lower levels of oxygen and heightened level of carbon monoxide within minutes. Because of this we are seeing children who are forced to wear masks for eight hours a day sit five days a week, ten months out of the year, we are seeing these children experiencing poor focus. Because of their lack of oxygen. We are seeing heightened level s of anxiety and we are actually seeing this affecting their school. Their ability to learn. I'm seeing this on my own son who says that he feels like he just needs to take down his mask to breathe, but he will get in trouble at school if he does that. The research also shows that elderly people especially those with lung conditions can experience serious health consequences when their CO2 and O2 levels become unbalances. Mask wearing has also been linked to a rise in bacterial pneumonia. I would like more time please. Thank you. It is for these reasons that I would like to ask each of you to vote no on any future mask mandates. I also employ each of-implore each of you to do your own research and educate others on what the science truly tells us about mask wearing. Thank you.

Glenn Moore came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

My name is Glenn Moore, 6130 Land O' Trees, Shreveport, in the Western Hills and Yarborough Subdivision. I'm in direct opposition of Mammoth Oil doing drilling in my backyard, in my community. It's already been recognized that the drilling is quite noisy. I'm a retired person. I don't want to hear all that noise. I don't want to breathe the dust that comes with it. Also, I have neighbors that live on my block that use well water and we know that it's not just water that they replace the oil that they bring out

of the ground. They also pump a lot of acid into the ground. So, I would like the Commissioners, especially my District 12 Commissioner, to have some say in that company doing that drilling in our neighborhoods. Thank you.

Lola Lawson came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

I'm with the Cooper Road community Committee and I came to ask you all would you all help the community more. Would you all not let oil and gas companies come into our community, plan a party, eat up all the food, drink up all the drinks and leave all the trash behind. We have traveled to Baton Rouge to talk to all the Commissioners, the Conservation Commissioners, and ask them to prolong so that our community people, the people in our community, could get more information on the oil and drilling. We know that it is many problems. Got people in our area who have health issues. We have two school in our community. 15-miles away from us, in Blanchard, we knew-we know that there have been two earthquakes up there. And we would not like to have a company come in inform every other entity that's in the plaque, but the homeowners. They have got permission from companies that surround the homeowners but they waited till the last minute to tell the homeowners. We did not know that they were coming in to our community until May 4<sup>th</sup>. They did not meet with us until May 27<sup>th</sup>. Then we didn't have-we were scrambling now for time to tell them that we do not want to be force pooled into taking whatever they give us. We also had our concerns out and asked them to come meet with us and talk with us about how they were going to protect the environment, how they were going to protect the kids int hat area, how they was going to protect or replace the roads after they put oil trucks up and down the roads. Also, I go to church in the rural area that's not too far from the Cooper Road and they have lines that's running on top of the soil. What if someone runs over it? What if somebody mistakenly puncture those lines and then the air quality in that area is messed up for the elderly? Messed up for the young people? So, what I'm asking is that you all before you all let this big companies come into our community, and I know you all are informed way before we are informed. Because we already know Caddo Parish School Board has signed off. WE know that Pecan Gun Company has signed off. Things that they did not tell us until it was too late in the game. WE have Representative Cedric trying to help us but we asking you all because you all on the local level to help us. Not to let companies come in without informing the landowners. So, now we're in a point now they're trying to force pool us into taking what they want to give us. It's our land. You all tax us every year so we should have a say in what's going on underneath our land.

Samora Davis-Green came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

Good evening, Commissioners. Samora Davis-Green, 4020 Parkwood Drive, 71119. I know you're not going to be answering any of my questions, but I just want to put this on your mind and on the minds of the residents and my neighborhood, which is western here is the Yarborough. There have been conflicting reports about Mammoth Minerals by residents. Some residents indicate that Mammoth Minerals have been fair in their representations. However, other residents have stated otherwise trying to find out what type of information portal or website has been created by the city to inform residents of their rights as homeowners. My second question, or my statement, would be does Mammoth Minerals need a permit from the city of Shreveport to operate, given they, Mammoth Minerals, are a Texas based company? Texas, Louisiana. They have to have a permit to come in here and do work. And the other point that I want to make is there's a huge potential of adverse consequences as a result of fracking, accidental release of toxins in the air, creating air pollution, accidental release into the water supply. As you all know most of us, which are outside of the city limits, have well water. I have well water. I want to keep my well water pure and clean. Adverse impact on the ecosystem putting our Sportsman Paradise that we enjoy in jeopardy. Noise pollution. Those trucks running up and down Jefferson Paige all times of the night. It's not we don't have that in Providence I tell you that much infrastructure stress from that weight of equipment disruption of the soil. Now one thing that you know I want to bring your attention is how is the city of Shreveport going to be proactive as an environmental, protector? So, we do not have the same outcome as the State of Michigan and water poisoning saying that the potential lawsuit triggers could bankrupt the City of Shreveport. And I guarantee you I will put all of my 401k behind a lawsuit if my well water is damage. I'm one of those people that have comorbidities. So, I'm likely going to be one of the first to go out if I catch something so I just put this on your mind and let you know I'm in there for the fight with the rest of my homeowner and residents. Thank you. Thank you.

#### **VISITORS**

- Dr. Martha Whyte  
COVID-19 Update

The Clerk of the Commission read aloud a letter from Dr. Martha Whyte:

Commissioners,

I appreciate your concern over the Covid-19 surge we are in currently. The numbers are indeed concerning. Masking, whether vaccinated or not, when in a group of people where you cannot social distance is important. Masking if unvaccinated when around others is

crucial. Social distancing and good handwashing/ use of hand sanitizer are definite mitigation steps. The most important thing that we need to all focus on is vaccination. Our community needs its' members vaccinated. We know that there is a subset of the population that simply will not consider vaccination. This group is not our primary focus. The people we need to focus on are those refusing vaccination, who have hesitancy, fear or concerns. We need to be able to outreach to them as directly as possible. Vaccination will not guarantee you will not get ill, but will protect you from serious illness. It will protect 99% of us from death. Vaccination will also limit the ability for this virus to continue to change and to develop into a new variant with worse outcomes (increased infectivity, increased mortality or deaths and worst case - no protection from by the vaccine). This Delta variant is making people sicker and quicker in healthy, young people. It is, also, causing higher infection viral loads, so that, unlike the original Alpha strain, we are seeing infected, vaccinated people spreading the infection. What will the next variant do? No one wants to mandate anything. No one wants to continue on the course we are on with this surge. No one wants businesses to have to close, which will lead to even more shuttering of businesses than before, because they simply cannot stand another shut down. Most importantly, no one wants to have friends and loved ones die. We are seeing younger people affected and younger people hospitalized, to follow will be the death of younger people. The only way we will prevent these negative outcomes is by first and foremost vaccination in all people able to be vaccinated currently. This is not a time for arguing, but to put ourselves, our loved ones, and our community first and take the shot. Get educated if you need to and take the shot. Next, we need to follow mitigation steps that we all know well, including masking. If we do not do these things, we are facing an increasingly worse situation. We are facing new variants, and we are facing the possible return of mandates to protect the community and limit spread. We can institutionalize people to require Tuberculosis treatment; arrest people for knowingly spreading HIV. There are well-tested precedents that allow the health of all to stand before one person's rights. We do not need, nor should we require the government to make us do the right things, just because it is uncomfortable for us. We know what works. We know what to do; we have done it before. Let's work together and shut down this surge. I am including some graphs which show you where we have been, to where we are now in regards to case numbers, hospitalizations, and ventilated patients. The change in just a couple of weeks is shocking, and I hope all will take notice. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Martha Whyte, MD

- Dr. Kevin Murnane  
COVID-19 Wastewater Presentation

Dr. Murnane said that they have submitted a funding request extend a wastewater testing program that they have been working on for the past nine months or so. Testing wastewater is a powerful epidemiological technique because of early detection, mutant identification, contact tracing, and maximize resource deployment.

He further stated that they have been developing this program with the City of Shreveport and the water departments. Shreveport is ideal because it contains a diverse mix of neighborhoods that makes it an excellent proving ground for the potential of WBE to prevent community spread of SAVS-COV-2. Autosamplers can be placed in specific manholes to track spread in neighborhoods as well as high risk facilities, such as nursing homes, dormitories, prisons, etc.

The Emerging Viral Threat (EVT) Laboratory was established within weeks of detection of the coronavirus in the United States. To date, the EVT Lab has tested more than 360,900 individuals from 58 of the 64 parishes in Louisiana and is responsible for 25% of all COVID-19 tests conducted in North Louisiana. The EVT Lab has also administered more than 75,000 vaccines, sequenced more than 2,500 positive samples (more than 60% of those sequenced in Louisiana), and it has also established a serology lab to test for antibodies to the virus.

They've tested three different communities, but cannot specify which one to protect the privacy of the people who live in those communities. The sites that were tested represent about 13,000 to 25,000 people in each site from people of various socio-economic backgrounds. One site is predominantly African-American, another predominantly European, and one site being a mixture of the two.

COVID-19 has taken a disproportionate toll on the poor and dispossessed. A recent study in the largest health system in Louisiana found that 77% of patients hospitalized with the virus were African-American, 80% of patients receiving critical care are and 71% who died were African-American. The most consistently reported and well-known risks of hospitalizations are being African-American, older age, increased comorbidities (especially obesity), having Medicaid or Medicare insurance, residing in a low-income neighborhood, and living in a rural area.

He also mentioned that the poor and disposed are bearing the brunt of the mental health complications of COVID. Substance abuse is increasing and substance use patterns are changing as a consequence.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if the funding that is being requested is to continue the testing. Dr. Murnane said that it is to continue and expand. Currently, they have been using internal LSU resources to do those three sites, along with in-kind support from the City of Shreveport, but with this funding, they'll be able to expand to more sites to ramp up interventions.

Mr. Atkins then wanted to know what types of intervention could the team provide. Dr. Murnane said that they will send in mobile strike teams to help citizens to get tested or vaccinated.

Mr. Atkins then wanted to know if this is being done nationally. Dr. Murnane said that testing using the power of wastewater-based epidemiology is pretty widespread, even internationally. People are doing wastewater testing to try to use the power of the early detection system to make public health decisions, he said.

Mr. Burrell said that testing is important and removes the political issues from it. He also said that it identifies where the problem is by collecting data.

Mr. Epperson suggested to test the wastewater in the portlets from the festivals as well. Dr. Murnane said that large mass gatherings are ideal to spread the virus.

Mr. Epperson also pointed out that they will be testing all around the Parish, not just in Shreveport.

Mr. Taliaferro said that this type of testing should have been done even prior to the pandemic. Dr. Murnane said that the water is routinely tested for heavy metals, leads, and other contaminate, but were not testing wastewater routinely prior to the pandemic. He also explained that there was a pandemic that was occurring before the COVID pandemic and that was of opioid use. During this ongoing pandemic, wastewater was being tested, but not on a routine basis, but for public health departments to make decisions about substance abuse patterns. He also said that there is a new pandemic that's happening in parallel to the opioid pandemic and the COVID pandemic, which is the use of methamphetamine. The use of this drug is skyrocketing all over the United States and North Louisiana, he said. People are overdosing in the LSU Emergency Department for methamphetamines. Dr. Murnane also explained that this technology predates COVID, but it was done much more in a public health level rather than a routine level.

Mr. Taliaferro then asked about the stress being cause by the coronavirus. He wanted to know if it was specified exactly what their worries were, i.e. catching the virus, restrictions that were being placed which hampered their household income, etc. Dr. Murnane said that all of those factors ranked high on things people would say. Economic insecurity, existential threats, the uncertainty, and the lack of understanding of when this will be over were factors that were ranked high.

Mr. Johnson thanked Dr. Murnane for presenting to the Commission.

- Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
LA Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Courreges explained that several of the issues mentioned earlier were issues when the Haynesville Shale drilling began thirteen years ago, such as the dust, noise, truck traffic concerns, mineral rights, etc. As the development of that field has gone on and encroaching on more populated areas, these issues are arising again. He said that the citizens can call the district office to help alleviate these issues.

Mr. Courreges also said that noise complaints are typically local government issues. They created rules back in 2008 for urban drilling, but believes that it may be time to redress those rules and possibly change them. Mr. Courreges said that he will bring this back before the Commissioner to look at the rules and adapt them to what people are dealing with now.

He also talked about mineral leases. State Law treats mineral agreements as private transactions between the mineral owner and the operator. The LA Department of Natural Resources cannot get involved on that nor can they advise on that.

He then talked about concerns with releases of gas or chemicals such as hydrocarbons or other contaminants. We do try to do a lot with our requirements, our rules, our engineering the permits, they get to ensure that they handle these substances safely, whether it's the fracking fluids going down and coming back up or the gas eventually come back up, he said. Mr. Courreges said that they have strong

rules on how many strings of pipe they have to have; how far it has to be submitted; etc. to protect against contamination. In order to do this, they have to get a well permit and clear it through the district office to ensure their fracture plan meets their standards.

Mr. Atkins said that these issues are across the Parish. It is not relegated to any particular demographic area; it's a function of where the gas is located. He also said that they are drilling all around neighborhoods in his district. He suggested that maybe the Commission should consider requesting the operator to put up large sound buffering walls when drilling near neighborhoods.

Mr. Epperson agreed and said that the rules should be reviewed again. He suggested that drilling companies should hold public meetings for proposed building sites prior to commencing operations; lower the current noise decibels; contact information of drilling companies and the disclosure of negative issues which could arise during the drilling process shall be disclosed in the leasing document; negative connotations of drilling should also be put in the leasing document; drilling location shall erect walls or sound depression devices, such as walls or baffles, irrespective to where you live; if the ingress and egress of roads to drilling rigs are constructed of material that creates dust, operators must constantly deploy abatement measures to minimize or alleviate; if damages incurred to nearby property or possessions of residents, they must be compensated in a timely manner to mitigate the damage; and all complaints should be acknowledged in writing to the complainant and should be treated equally.

Mr. Burrell said when he worked in the City of Shreveport, there was a strong noise ordinance that everyone, including drilling companies, had to abide by. He suggested that the Parish strengthen their noise ordinance, if there is one.

Mr. Taliaferro said that he is supportive of Mr. Epperson's list. He suggested making it an "action list, not a wish list". He wanted to know what could the Department of Natural Resources could do at the moment to address the concerns of the citizens. Mr. Courreges said that they do not have strong authority over noise, dust, and that sort of thing, however, when their agents reach out to an operator and express those types of concerns, they normally abide by what is asked of them. He also encouraged that citizens reach out to a district office and let them know what is going on, so they can forward those concerns with the operators.

Mr. Taliaferro then suggested that contact information be provided in the mineral lease contract. Mr. Courreges said that would need be forwarded to the Legislature to mandate that be a part of the mineral lease contract.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know how the MPC comes into play when these rigs are in residential areas within the MPC limits. Mr. Courreges said that he has seen where communities have an issue where zoning runs afoul of Mineral Law, which means if you have your mineral rights, you have the right to exercise them. Mr. Alan Clarke, MPC Director, said they would have to investigate and research this, but they have had little to do with anything that has to do with drilling, fracking, and mineral rights. He said that he will share their findings at the next meeting.

Mr. Epperson thanked Mr. Courreges for coming down to the Commission and discussing the oil and gas drilling operations.

Mr. Courreges provided the contact information for the district office: (318) 676-7585 or a citizen can reach him at (225) 342-0510.

#### **ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to adopt the Regular Session Minutes from June 17, 2021.* Motion carried.

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Special Resolution honoring Harry W. Thomas* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION HARRY WINTERS THOMAS**

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Caddo Parish Commission to give appropriate acknowledgment and recognition to individuals that have rendered invaluable service to the citizens of Caddo Parish; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Harry Winters Thomas is an iconic personality in local journalism and has

contributed indelibly through his 40-year career of uncovering information, documenting & interpreting significant events and situations, and advocating for the underrepresented voices to be heard as the story of Caddo Parish is told. Thomas' talent and dedication saw him break barriers to become one of the first Black journalists to be employed in mainstream local media outlet in Northwest Louisiana; and

**WHEREAS**, Harry Thomas is a native of Shreveport, La., having been born March 5th, 1954. Thomas attended and graduated from Caddo Parish public schools and continued his studies at Southern University in Baton Rouge before returning to Shreveport to begin his career in journalism; and

**WHEREAS**, Thomas began his career during the tumultuous times of the 1970's as a reporter at the Shreveport Sun where his firsthand knowledge of the challenges facing the Black community at the time helped him to ask the hard questions that others weren't willing to and carve out a reputation as someone who could get to the heart of a story. His factual, trustworthy reporting and ability to express complicated issues in direct terms helped to inform and educate many in the Black Community to issues they may not have otherwise been aware of and further established the Shreveport Sun as a vital source for news; and

**WHEREAS**, Thomas' contributions to the Shreveport Sun were so significant that he became one of the first Black journalists to work for a mainstream local media outlet when he was hired by the Shreveport Journal Newspaper where he would report for many years and where he contributed articles and perspectives that remain relevant today, for example, his 1992 article on local prison planning was one of the first to point out the need to reduce the demand for prison space by seeking diversion programs and reducing the rate that minorities were being sentenced to prison; and

**WHEREAS**, Thomas continued to tell the story of our community, but from 1998 to 2014 he shifted his focus to telling the story to visitors through his work with and advocacy for the African American Multicultural Tourism Commission, who were one of the first organizations to receive NGO Funding from the Caddo Parish Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, Thomas never has let his distinguished work get in the way of love for and commitment to his God and his family. Thomas serves as a Deacon at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Shreveport and he and his beloved wife, Betty, have one son, Omar, who resides in South Louisiana; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby declare and proclaim July 25th, 2021 to be:

**'MR. HARRY WINTERS THOMAS DAY'**

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, in recognition and admiration of his notable contributions to Caddo Parish through his accomplishments and barrier breaking career in journalism and his service advocating to tell the story, especially from the underrepresented voices, of Caddo Parish.

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Special Resolution of Recognition celebrating the Shreveport Mudbugs* be adopted.

At this time, Mr. Chavez's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Hopkins, Jackson, and Young (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Tommy Scott thanked the Commission for recognizing the Shreveport Mudbugs.

Mr. Chavez thanked Mr. Scott and all those involved with making the Shreveport Mudbugs a successful team in Shreveport. You give the City of Shreveport something to do, he said.

Mr. Cawthorne congratulated the Shreveport Mudbugs for all of their success and the attainment of their cups.

Mr. Burrell said that the Shreveport Mudbugs invested in the community and brought about security and economic development in their area.

**RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION  
SHREVEPORT MUDBUGS**

**WHEREAS**, the Caddo Parish Commission has observed with pride and satisfaction as the Shreveport Mudbugs have built an incredible team of dominance in their five years as a member of the North American Hockey League (NAHL); and

**WHEREAS**, the Shreveport Mudbugs have emerged as the 2020-2021 NAHL Robertson Cup National Champions, having conquered the Aberdeen Wings at the NAHL Robertson Cup final in

Blaine, Minnesota's Fogerty Arena on June 22, 2021 and securing the Mudbugs 2nd National Championship win in the last 3 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mudbugs are the first NAHL team in the 41-year history to call the state of Louisiana home. The Mudbugs are also one of the top attendance drawers in the league, with each game at George's Pond filled with rabid fans celebrating and supporting their SHREVEPORT MUDBUGS; and

**WHEREAS**, not only are the Mudbugs organization a "Hockey Championship Organization", their contributions and efforts in bringing other exciting users, including the 2018 Miss USA and Miss Teen USA pageants, to the Hirsh Coliseum have contributed greatly to the local quality of life, enthusiasm, tourism and economic development in Caddo Parish and Northwest Louisiana, making them one of the elite organizations throughout the Ark-La-Tex.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 22nd day of July, 2021, that it does hereby heartily commend and congratulate Owner Tommy Scott, General Manager Scott Muscutt, Coach Campbell, staff, and the team members of the SHREVEPORT MUDBUGS for their devotion to excellence, and for the splendid manner in which they represent their City and their Parish.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Commission applauds the Shreveport Mudbugs for all of their hard work and persistence that has resulted in outstanding athletic and personal accomplishments and the honor and prestige they have brought back to this community. The Commission does wish much continued success in the game of hockey, as well as in the business of life for which their teamwork experiences have so successfully helped to prepare them.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to englobo and adopt the following resolutions, but to delay the presentation of Special Resolution of Recognition for Marco French*:

- *Special Resolution recognizing Matthew Whitaker*
- *Resolution of Remembrance & Respect to William Clarence Wright*
- 

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Gage-Watts, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION MATTHEW WHITAKER**

**WHEREAS**, the Caddo Parish Commission is always pleased to recognize those who possess tremendous talents and choose to share those talents with the citizens of Caddo Parish for their enjoyment and to inspire Caddo's young people to attain success and distinction in the various endeavors they pursue; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 18, 2021, Mr. Matthew Whitaker, at the invitation of Bishop Fred A. Caldwell, Sr., will share his exceptional talents and inspirational presence during the Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Baptist Church's Youth Summer Celebration; and

**WHEREAS**, Whitaker is a prodigious and accomplished musician whose talents far outshine any obstacles he has overcome, his many accomplishments include being the youngest artist to be endorsed by Hammond, the youngest artist to be named a Yamaha artist, the Outstanding Soloist Award from Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Charles Mingus High School Competition & Festival, and the Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Competition & Festival; Most Remarkable Young Person on Screen by the Harlem International Film Festival, named a Person to Watch by the New Jersey Record, named one of the 20 Under 20 Performing Artists by Crain's New York Business, named a Futurist Leader by the Root and named a Rising Star by USA Today's 201 Magazine, winning during the Child Stars of Tomorrow during Amateur Night at the Apollo, winning the ASCAP Foundation's Herb Albert Young Jazz Composers Award, touring the United States and abroad and performing in legendary venues like the Lincoln Center, Apollo Theater, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Monterey Jazz Festival, Newport Jazz Festival and more, playing with notable musicians from Christian McBride to Jon Batiste, being selected to perform at Stevie Wonder's induction into the Apollo Hall of Fame, appearing on TV shows including Showtime at the Apollo, the Today Show, The Harry Connick Jr. Show, Ellen, and 60 minutes, releasing 2 albums 2017's Outta The Box and 2019's Now Hear This; and

**WHEREAS**, Whitaker is currently studying Classical Piano and drums at The Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School, which is the only community music school for the blind and visually

impaired in the United States, having also studied at the Harlem School of the Arts, the Manhattan School of Music's pre-college Jazz program, and the Juilliard School of Music; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal session convened this 18th day of May, 2021, that it does hereby convey its deepest and most sincere recognition and appreciation to Mr. Matthew Whitaker and encourages the citizens of Caddo Parish to join us in the recognition of such a Whitaker's achievements, talent and willingness to share his talent and experience to inspire other young people.

#### **RESOLUTION OF REMEMBRANCE & RESPECT WILLIAM CLARENCE WRIGHT**

**WHEREAS**, the Caddo Commission is invariably saddened when the hand of death touches a citizen of the community whose life has been characterized by unselfish dedication to the service of others; and

**WHEREAS**, this body notes with deep regret the passing of Mr. William Clarence Wright on July 14, 2021, takes from this Parish a man who had accomplished much, but who yet had much to offer. Mr. Wright has served the citizens of Northwest Louisiana, transporting the sick and injured in their most vulnerable time of need, since moving to Shreveport, Louisiana in 1991; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wright served his community with integrity, dedication and commitment. His passionate dedication to health care, public safety and the welfare of citizens can be traced through his entire lifetime. Mr. Wright's love for this community has resonated throughout his willingness to teach new EMTs and Paramedics the skills needed to succeed in Emergency Medical Services, as well as the personal touch needed to show genuine care for patients; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to his passing, Mr. Wright, enjoyed the outdoors and had a true passion for hunting, fishing, camping, and cooking. He shared his love of the outdoors with his children; and

**WHEREAS**, although the death of Mr. Wright has left a tremendous void in the community he served, he is warmly remembered by the many individuals whose lives he touched with his warm, compassionate, and helpful spirit, as well as a strong and purposeful resolve to make a difference.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Commission does further convey to the family and friends of Mr. Wright its sincerest expressions of sympathy and consolation, and the prayer that they will be comforted daily in the knowledge of life that continues beyond this vale.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING ORDINANCES**

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

- *Ordinance No. 6081 of 2021, an ordinance amending the 2021 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Juvenile Justice Fund and the Oil & Gas Fund to establish and provide an appropriation for a pilot program for juvenile offender monitoring, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6082 of 2021, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of the dedication of Redrick Drive in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

John Lorick came before the Commission to speak in favor of Ordinance No. 6082 of 2021 and gave the following comment:

I'm John Lorick. I represent the developer on the property and the owner of the property there that surrounds this end of that road roadway. He owns a property on both sides, the south side that drops off a cliff that's about, probably, 40 feet. So, it's-it doesn't directly affect anyone else. Will be a great enhancement to his development and much needed businesses and enterprise for the area there so. Thank you.

- *Ordinance No. 6091 of 2021, an emergency ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Trust Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation for an Emergency Eviction Mitigation Program, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6093 of 2021, an emergency ordinance mandating masks or facial covering in certain establishments and public places; to provide penalties for the violation of same, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Brenda O'Brock came before the Commission to speak against Ordinance No. 6093 of

2021. She gave the following comment:

Good afternoon. I'm Brenda O'Brock. I live in Shreveport and I'm here today to point out some disparities from experts in recent topics of health care more particularly face masks, but also unproven coveted fears. We need our leaders to present more facts than fear. Americans love freedom and we enjoy making our own decisions. Just give us the facts. Not many have reported that if you get a cut that if you get covered you are under the age and if you're under the age of 70 you have no covert susceptible health risk. You have a 94.6 chance of recovery. Your or healthy people have a 99.99% chance of recovery. We are given inaccurate information daily about coveted vaccines and masks. I witnessed Dr. Martha White here last week at the City Council meeting saying that there had been no coveted deaths from the vaccine. I give to you today the CDC report saying that there were 37 that's probably tripled by now. We've also heard Dr. Anthony Fauci flip-flop, several times concerning face mask. I was in a grocery store several months ago here in Shreveport and when I walked in I heard this on the intercom- are you tired of wearing that mask? If you are, just step right up and get your vaccine. And you won't ever have to wear a mask again. When we hear state and national officials confused about COVID vaccines and masks it's not time to mandate no governing authority has the permitted power to dictate what people wear on their persons. It's not within your job description to order the policing of people who are ruled by constitutional republic. This ordinance makes no reference to an N95 mask and all masks are not created equal. The only efficient mask is the N95 and this only works if you wear it snugly. It has a filter rating of 95% there's no one in this room today that I saw that's wearing an N95 mask. That's why I walked in with a fishnet over my face. This is as good as what they handed you at the door. Check the science. The proposed cloth mask as deemed acceptable by government officials are worthless and do not filter out a particle as small as a virus. Virus particles are 50 times smaller than bacteria and a thousand times smaller than a hair without all the facts. You display your lack of knowledge as well as your disregard for citizens health and well-being and you also disregard your position as being a good steward of our time and our money mandating a face mask ordinance. When you have not educated yourself or the public of the proper mask and the proper fitting would give our citizenry a false sense of protection. Are you ready to face the unforeseen circumstances of policing without educating? Allow citizens to own their own decisions. My body, my choice. And I have on more sentence. The liberties of our people far outweigh the mandates of any man.

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

#### **ORDINANCES (for final passage)**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *Ordinance No. 6081 of 2021, an ordinance amending the 2021 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Juvenile Justice Fund and the Oil & Gas Fund to establish and provide an appropriation for a pilot program for juvenile offender monitoring, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 6081 OF 2021**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021 BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE JUVENILE JUSTICE FUND AND THE OIL AND GAS FUND TO ESTABLISH AND PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION FOR A PILOT PROGRAM FOR JUVENILE OFFENDER MONITORING AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Juvenile Court was subject to the unfunded mandate to house 17 year-olds in the Caddo Parish Juvenile Detention Center and no revenue sources have been identified for these added expenditures; and

WHEREAS, anywhere between 24-40 juvenile offenders are in pre- or post- adjudication within the Caddo Parish Court system and require housing at the Juvenile Detention Center at a costly basis without effective GPS monitoring; and

WHEREAS, the Juvenile Offender Monitoring Pilot Program allows for the provision of GPS monitoring services to juveniles of the Caddo Parish Court system; and

WHEREAS, the pilot program would consist of a 3-month trial with an estimated cost of \$6,300; and

WHEREAS, five (5) juveniles within the Caddo Parish Court system will be selected to

participate in the pilot program and each participant will be assigned a GPS watch; and

WHEREAS, the GPS watches will be monitored 24 hours a day and Caddo Parish officials will have access to the monitoring platform and instructional use of the watch; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish will fund projects from Parish Administrations, Parish Funded Agencies, the Commission and other public bodies; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2021 Juvenile Justice Fund and Oil and Gas Fund budgets to provide and appropriation of \$6,300 for the Juvenile Offender Monitoring Pilot Program; and

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan may be an appropriate funding source to cover the cost of this program and those costs that are appropriate for reimbursement through the American Rescue Plan will be applied for; and

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 Juvenile Justice Fund and the Oil and Gas Fund for the year 2021 as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>	
<u>Juvenile Justice Fund</u>		
Juvenile Offender Monitoring	\$6,300	
Transfer From Oil & Gas		\$6,300
<u>Oil &amp; Gas Fund</u>		
Transfer to Juvenile Justice Fund		\$6,300
Fund Balance		(\$6,300)

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.

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Ordinance No. 6082 of 2021, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of the dedication for Redrick Drive in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Chavez said that the MPC passed this unanimously.

At this time, Mr. Chavez's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 6082 OF 2021**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE AND ABANDON A PORTION OF THE DEDICATION FOR REDRICK DRIVE IN THE PARISH OF CADDO, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, a request for the closure and abandonment of a portion of the dedication for Redrick Drive has been received by the Parish of Caddo; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has reviewed the request for the closure and abandonment of a portion of the dedication for Redrick Drive and finds that portion of Redrick Drive is no longer needed for Parish of Caddo public purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has reviewed the request for the closure and abandonment of a portion of the dedication for Redrick Drive and finds that the closure and abandonment of a portion of the dedication for Redrick Drive is in the best interest of the Parish of Caddo.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the closure and abandonment of a portion of the dedication for Redrick Drive located in the Parish of Caddo be, and the same is hereby, closed and abandoned, and only to the extent, that said road was used as a public road; said portion of Redrick Drive more specifically described as follows:

All of that portion of Redrick Drive located in the Parish of Caddo as shown in red hash marks on the attached plat marked Exhibit "A".

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a copy of this ordinance and plat marked Exhibit "A", displaying that portion of the dedication for Redrick Drive to be closed and abandoned, shall be filed in the conveyance records of the Parish of Caddo.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the property described hereinabove shall revert to the adjoining property owners or their successors, heirs or assigns subject to the reservation of an easement for utilities.

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 become effective immediately upon adoption.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Ordinance No. 6091 of 2021, an emergency ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Trust Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation for an Emergency Eviction Mitigation Program, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if an organization has been identified to administer this program. Mrs. Bryant said that they are still looking for an organization to assist.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if there was another way to do this program more efficiently. Dr. Wilson explained that they are looking for an organization to provide legal representation for those who have had a court date for eviction.

At this time, Mr. Burrell's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 6091 OF 2021**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE E. EDWARD JONES TRUST FUND FOR THE YEAR 2021 TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION FOR AN EVICTION MITIGATION PROGRAM AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the federal moratorium on evictions of qualified tenants by landlords is due to expire on July 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing economic downturn due to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to adversely impact both state and local economies; and

WHEREAS, many of our citizens continue to experience financial hardships and are unable to pay rent and facing eviction as a result; and

WHEREAS, eviction of large numbers of our citizens will cause both a social and economic crisis in the area; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) made funds available to assist qualifying households pay rent and avoid eviction; and

WHEREAS, some qualifying renters may still be subject to eviction while they wait for their

rental assistance applications to be completed and approved before funds are disbursed; and

WHEREAS, the proposed emergency eviction mitigation program is intended to help bridge the gap between the rental assistance application and funding to help prevent qualifying applicants from being evicted; and

WHEREAS, funds for this program would be reimbursed from the state portion of Caddo Parish rental assistance funds; and

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 E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund for the year 2021 is hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
<u>E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund</u>	
Eviction Mitigation Program	\$20,000
Fund Balance	(\$20,000)

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.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that Ordinance No. 6093 of 2021, an emergency ordinance mandating masks or facial covering in certain establishments and public places; to provide penalties for the violation of same, and otherwise provide with respect thereto be delayed until the next Regular Session meeting.*

Mr. Johnson said that he has heard from citizens that the Commission is violating people's rights by asking them to mask up. He presented a Code of Ordinances book and said that those laws written in that book are mandates to the citizens. He also said that the Commission is responsible for public, health, and safety of Caddo Parish citizens. He would like this to be delayed until the next Regular Session to determine whether or not the numbers are still increasing.

Mr. Atkins understands that there is a real virus with health risks, but he is still a believer in educating and encouraging people, but not mandating that people wear masks.

Mr. Chavez queried his neighborhood. Of the forty-one people, only one said they would like to wear a mask, but forty said they would not like to wear masks. He pleaded to all his fellow Commissioners to ask their constituents what they want and vote accordingly.

Mrs. Gage-Watts is not in support of delaying this because this is a public health crisis. She said that she does not like masks, but she knows that they save lives. She also said that Caddo Parish is in its fourth wave, and it is going to be worse than the previous three. She is in support of a mask mandate because at this point, it is costing us lives.

Mr. Burrell also said that he hates wearing a mask, but there are times when there are necessary evils. He said that there is a variant, and that is what Caddo Parish is dealing with right now. He does not want people to give the Delta Variant to him, and he would rather not put his life in a position to wear he will get COVID. This thing is getting worse, he said.

Mr. Cawthorne is asking people to wear mask until the fourth wave is past. It is a way to protect the lives of other people, yourself, and other people, he said.

Mr. Taliaferro said that "as Americans, we should always err on the side of less government, less intrusion". He is concerned with the long-term effects of children wearing masks in school for eight hours. He also mentioned that health and dietary education has not been discussed by the CDC nor any other outspoken medical professionals. We should focus part of our messaging on how they can boost their immune systems, improve their diets, and lead a healthier lifestyle to lower their risks, he said.

Mrs. Gage-Watts reiterated that no one is exempt from this disease.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that the Delta Variant is attacking people who are healthy too. He also mentioned that no one has brought forth any compromise to this ordinance. He said that he is trying to help the people of Caddo Parish. Mr. Johnson also explained that if you could be vaccinated and be asymptomatic and give it to another people. This ordinance is a way to be proactive, not reactive.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to change the word mandate*

to encourage throughout Ordinance No. 6093 of 2021.

Mr. Atkins said that his biggest issue is mandating people to wear masks, demanding people to wear masks. His substitute is only encouraging or requesting people to wear masks.

**Friendly amendment by Mr. Hopkins to remove the penalties for not wearing masks.** Mr. Atkins accepted.

Mr. Johnson said that if this ordinance is postpone and sent to Committee, then anyone who wants to bring forth any amendments can do so at that time.

Mr. Atkins' withdrew his substitute motion, and Mr. Chavez withdrew his second.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Epperson. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (8). NAYS: Commissioners Cawthorne and Gage-Watts (2). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Johnson's original motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, and Johnson (7). NAYS: Commissioners Chavez, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **ZONING ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)**

- *Zoning Case No. 21-14-P, in regards to Ordinance No. 6084 of 2021, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located north of Overton Brooks Road, approximately one thousand six hundred feet west of Norris Ferry Road, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-A, Rural Agriculture District to R-E, Residential Estate District*
- *Zoning Case No. 21-22-P, in regards to Ordinance No. 6085 of 2021, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the east side of Mansfield Road, approximately six hundred fifty feet south of Stage Coach Road, Caddo Parish, LA, from I-2, Heavy Industrial District to C-2, Corridor Commercial District*

#### **ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)**

- *Ordinance No. 6086 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to provide an appropriation of \$20,000 for Louisiana Urban Gardening, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6087 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Health Tax Fund to appropriate Petco Love Grant proceeds in the amount of \$10,000, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6088 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation for the Soul Food Festival, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6089 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation for the Multicultural Center of the South, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6090 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation for a COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6092 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation for the Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church Tutoring Program,*

and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

- Ordinance No. 6094 of 2021, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of the dedication for Lee Boulevard in Linwood Park Homesites, Unit No. 4, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6095 of 2021, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of the dedication for an unnamed road near the intersection of Roy Road and Shepherd Road in the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6097 of 2021, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 6073 of 2021, setting the General Purpose and Special Purpose Millages and levying and imposing taxes and assessments for 2021 on property subject to taxation in the Parish of Caddo, to correct the amount set for the Public Health Facilities Millage, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6098 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation of \$50,000 for a Wastewater Program for COVID-19, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

### **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that the Work Session Minutes from July 19, 2021 be ratified. Motion carried.*

### **RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Resolution No. 57 of 2021, a resolution establishing a Citizen Advisory Committee of the Juvenile Justice Committee to study juvenile justice issued in Caddo Parish and otherwise providing with respect thereto be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).*

### **RESOLUTION NO. 57 OF 2021**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE TO STUDY JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES IN CADDO PARISH AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Caddo Parish Commission is reviewing juvenile justice issues in Caddo Parish;

WHEREAS, the Juvenile Justice Committee would like to have citizen input on these matters and believes that the best mechanism for gaining such input is organizing a citizen advisory committee to make recommendations to the Juvenile Justice Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does establish a Citizen Advisory Committee to the Juvenile Justice Committee to assist the Committee regarding the following:

- a. Making recommendations to the Juvenile Justice Committee about Juvenile Detention Center expansion;
- b. Alternatives to incarceration;
- c. Expanding wraparound services, including, but not limited to a GED program;
- d. Therapeutic treatment, and
- e. Any other recommendations if desired by the Juvenile Justice Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Subcommittee shall consist of twelve members who shall reside in Caddo Parish and appointed by the Caddo Parish Commission with one member from each Parish commission district to be nominated by the respective Parish commissioner.

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. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that Resolution No. 58 of 2021, a resolution affirming the ad-hoc American Rescue Plan Taskforce, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be removed from the agenda.

Mr. Hopkins said that Mr. Jackson requested that this be removed from the agenda.

At this time, Mr. Hopkins' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Resolution No. 59 of 2021, a resolution requesting Caddo Parish Homeland Security and the Louisiana National Guard to assist local immigration measures, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez** *that the Department of Homeland Security be struck from the resolution.* Motion died for the lack of a second.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 59 of 2021* be removed from the agenda.

Mr. Epperson said that the immigrants who came to Caddo Parish have all left to be with their relatives. He believes that this issue should be discussed in a different forum.

Mr. Johnson agreed and explained that the immigrants who came to Caddo Parish had sponsors throughout the United States. Shreveport just so happened to be a stopping point before they reached their final destinations with their family members. He also pointed out that the immigrants have already had background checks ran on them, and the only failure that he sees is that nobody was notified when they arrived. He also said that there are organizations who are helping these immigrants get back on their feet, and the Commission should consider helping them.

Mr. Cawthorne agreed and pointed out that these people are not an imminent threat to this community.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if Mr. Chavez was comfortable with pulling this resolution off the agenda and rewriting it, if necessary. Mr. Chavez said that he is in favor of removing this from the agenda.

Mr. Burrell said that he will be supporting removing this from the agenda.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that there is some much misinformation regarding these citizens taking up residence in Caddo Parish. She reiterated that they were merely passing through to get to their families. She also said that this has been going on for over a year and a half. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that she will be supporting removing this from the agenda.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to reconsider Ordinance No. 6093 of 2021.*

Mr. Hopkins said that he would like to bring this back forward to decide on something.

At this time, Mr. Hopkins' motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, and Lazarus (4). NAYS: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Taliaferro (6). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Young (2).

ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Commissioner Chavez's travel to San Antonio in order to observe San Antonio's Animal Court* be removed from the agenda.

Mr. Chavez said that he received a strongly worded email from a constituent stating that he nor Mr. Young should go to San Antonio to address this endeavor and that it can be done via Zoom. He spoke with Mr. Young who agreed.

Mr. Johnson said that Mr. Chavez represents about 20,000 individuals with approximately 12,000 registered voters. Receiving a few emails from constituents who he is in tuned with all the time does not represent all of his district, Mr. Johnson said. He also said that if this is a worthwhile trip with educational purposes, then he should go.

Mr. Chavez agreed with Mr. Johnson and said that the Commissioners were ridiculed years ago for travel. He believes that travel to other places is important in order to bring back different points of views to Caddo Parish.

Mr. Epperson withdrew his second. At this time, Mr. Atkins seconded Mr. Chavez's motion.

Mr. Taliaferro said that the people who sit on the Animal Services Committee's prime responsibility is the welfare of the animals, not appeasing the people out there. He also said that he understands Animal Court.

Mr. Chavez said that he would entertain a substitute motion for someone else to go on this trip. Mr. Taliaferro said that Mr. Chavez and Mr. Young saw the need, along with Animal Services saw the need.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to authorize Mr. Chavez's travel to San Antonio to observe their Animal Court.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

- Patrick Wesley  
Parks & Recreation Director

Mr. Wesley said that the primary goal of the Parks & Recreation Department is that they work, so people can play, provide a quality of life experience for the citizens of Caddo Parish. They have fifteen employees, three part-time, and a \$1.4M budget.

From a programming standpoint, they have four program pillars that they deal with, which are recreation/athletics, nature, education, and health & wellness. They provide a diverse slate of programs from nature camps to sport camps to educational programs. The Parks & Recreation Department has forged relationships and partnerships throughout Caddo Parish.

Mr. Wesley also provided list of capital improvements to the Commissioners. One of the primary park improvements that they would like to do is at Earl G. Williamson Park in Oil City, which is currently closed for electrical upgrades, new fishing pier, plumbing upgrades, restroom upgrades, and ballfield renovations. In September, they will be upgrading PBS Pinchback Park's playground equipment, walking trails, shade structures, kids basketball court, etc. They are also upgrading the playground at Richard Fleming Park. In the Fall, they will be upgrading the playground, walking trails, basketball courts, and community garden at Greenbrook Park.

He also said that there will be new signage, restroom upgrades, and park partitions. Mr. Wesley said that their 15 year Master Plan ended last year, so they will be working on that in about a month. They will be reaching out to the Commissioners and Administration to establish public input meetings to see what the citizens would like to see at the Caddo Parish Parks. The new website [caddoparks.org](http://caddoparks.org) will launch next year.

Mr. Epperson said that Ms. Bessie Smith called him about the City coming out and spraying some type of chemicals at the park in Stoner Hill and killed all of the grass. Mr. Wesley said that the City's Property Standards Department contracted a vendor to spray some abandoned properties in Stoner Hill and mistakenly sprayed the park. They are currently reaching out to the City's Administration to make it right.

Mr. Johnson said that District 2 had a park on Montana, but it is no longer. He would like to see a park in District 2 be apart of the new 15-year Master Plan. He would also like to see Richard Fleming Park to be expanding. Dr. Wilson said that they would like to have a park in each district.

Mrs. Gage-Watts commended Parks & Recreation for all of their programs. She wanted to know how these programs are communicated to the community. Mr. Wesley said that they use the website, social media, and radio.

- Update on satellite early voting locations

Dr. Wilson said that he sent the Commissioners a letter from Registrar Sibley who made a recommendation for an additional satellite early voting location. His recommendation is the Hamilton Branch location. Registrar Sibley will be at the next Regular Session to give his report.

- Relocation of the Confederate Monument

Dr. Wilson said that it is an ongoing process, and they are scheduling vendors to inspect the monument.

- E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund RFP

Dr. Wilson said that the selection will be finalized Monday or Tuesday.

- I-49 Welcome Sign Update

Dr. Wilson said that they are still waiting on DOTD to approve the permits to proceed.

- U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Dr. Wilson said that they are waiting on the State to provide the rest of the funds for Caddo Parish to continue this program. They've been in communication with them since this past Monday are close to having a contractual agreement.

Mr. Burrell said that he's had constituents calling him regarding this program whose applications have not been reviewed. Dr. Wilson said that they cleared the backlog weeks ago, but it is incumbent on the applicant to provide the necessary documentation to complete the evaluation process.

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

- Mr. Taliaferro said that Webster Parish lost Deputy Billy Collins on July 9, 2021 while responding to a call.

- Mr. Epperson requested that Mr. Chuck Wilson go to the Dodd's residence and put up a sound monitor. Mr. Weaver said that was installed about 3:00 p.m. this afternoon. They were also at the site taking readings and should have them throughout the night.

Mr. Epperson also asked that they look at the sign at Palmetto and Twilight Meadows. He also said that he called the company's emergency number for the sounds, but has yet to hear from them.

Mr. Epperson commended Mr. Wesley for all of his hard work with the Parks & Recreation Department.

He also said that Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 4670 Lakeshore Drive, Shreveport, will be hosting a vaccination clinic in conjunction with LSU Health Science Center on August 15 from 11:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. He encouraged all to participate in this program.

Lt. Ebony Carter would like to hold a Yellow Ribbon Job Fair in Shreveport during the first quarter of 2022.

- Mr. Cawthorne thanked Mr. Epperson for his proclamation for Mr. Harry Thomas.

He also said that there is significant interest in the urban gardening ordinance. He suggested taking this to committee during its layover. Mr. Johnson said that they need to have a meeting with them to determine their capacity and how they can be best utilized.

- Mr. Burrell also commended Mr. Epperson for his proclamation to Mr. Harry Thomas.

He also said that he resigned from ICE a few years ago due to possibly ethics issues. They are in the middle of their Biz Camp program, and they had several Commissioners come out to be judges for the children.

He commended the Commission for helping sponsor the Sickle Cell Softball Tournament.

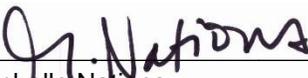
- The Clerk of the Commission mentioned that there is a Pandemic Taskforce Committee Meeting that will be held via Zoom at 11:00 a.m. The American Rescue Plan Committee will meet Monday at 12:00 noon. The Economic Development Committee will meet tentatively on August 2 at 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if the Governor has made an announcement regarding COVID. Dr. Wilson said he will make an announcement to mitigate the fourth wave that is coming. Attorney Frazier said that the Executive Order ends today until midnight. She also said that if there is a gubernatorial emergency order in place by the time of the Pandemic Meeting, then there's no issue.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

A few Commissioners went to the NACo Conference in Maryland. One of the main topics discussed was the American Rescue Plan Committee. He also said that the Commissioners sit on different Committees and learn about different things across the United States to bring back to Caddo Parish.

There was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

  
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Michelle Nations  
Assistant Commission Clerk

  
Lyndon B. Johnson  
President