

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., via Zoom teleconference, with Mr. Johnson, 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: None (0).

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

At this time, Mr. Epperson did a special recognition for the U.S. Military involvement in the Afghan War. He also recognized and offered condolences for all the lives lost during the Afghan War. He named the last thirteen killed in Afghanistan: Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo (U.S. Marines), Sgt. Nicole L. Gee (U.S. Marines), Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover (U.S. Marines), Cpl. Hunter Lopez (U.S. Marines), Cpl. Daegan W. Page (U.S. Marines), Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez (U.S. Marines), Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza (U.S. Marines), Lance Cp. Jared M. Schmitz (U.S. Marines), Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum (U.S. Marines), Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola (U.S. Marines), Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui (U.S. Marines), Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak (U.S. Navy), and Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss (U.S. Army).

AGENDA ADDITIONS

Mr. Johnson stated that these items on this agenda does not meet the teleconference requirements:

- *Ordinance No. 6109 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation of \$165,300 to provide ballistic vests for Shreveport and Caddo Parish Fire Districts, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 66 of 2021, a resolution to support the State of Louisiana relocating the state building on Fairfield Avenue to downtown Shreveport, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 67 of 2021, a resolution establishing a community-based Broadband Committee of the Caddo Parish Commission to make recommendations for increasing broadband access in Caddo Parish, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 68 of 2021, a resolution regarding planning and zoning in Caddo Parish, to express the decision of the Caddo Parish Commission that the support for the Caddo Parish Planning Commission be accomplished by Parish employees, and to request the Parish Administrator to submit a plan to establish such in accordance with the Parish Charter and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Special Resolution declaring September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month*
- *Special Resolution declaring September as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month*
- *Authorize the appoint of Elizabeth "Candy" Beaird and MeGail D. Parsons to the Juvenile Justice Citizen's Advisory Committee*
- *Authorize the appointment of Phillip Ewald to fulfill the unexpired term of Jimmy Woods*

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to consider the amended agenda under La.R.S. 42:17.1. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Jackson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

CERTIFICATE FOR TELECONFERENCE

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana has declared a statewide Public Health emergency, inclusive of Caddo Parish, in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020;

WHEREAS, the Governor, has further extended that declaration via Proclamations Number 158JBE 2020 and Number 159 JBE 2020; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 42:17.1 allows members of political subdivisions to participate in its

meetingelectronically under certain limited circumstances.

THEREFORE, in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 42:17.1, the presiding officer of the CaddoParish Commission hereby certifies that this meeting is to address matters that are:

- (a) directly related to the public Commission's response to the Coronavirus Pandemic and arecritical to the health, safety, or welfare of the public.
- (b) that if they are delayed will cause curtailment of vital public services or severe economicdislocation and hardship.
- (c) critical to continuation of the business of the Commission and that are not able to be postponed to a meeting held in accordance with the other provisions of Open Meetings Law due to a legal requirement or other deadline that cannot be postponed or delayed by the public body.
- (d) critical or time-sensitive and have been determined by the undersigned shouldnot be delayed;*

* Consideration of matters under Paragraph (d) will initially require a two-thirds vote of those members present. (This does not affect the vote necessary for adoption or any motion).

Date: September 8, 2021

/s/Lyndon B. Johnson
Commission President

CITIZENS COMMENTS

James LaCaze called in and gave the following comment:

I'm asking for favorable passage of Phillip Ewald to the Ward II Industrial Development Board.

Candy Peavy called in and gave the following comment:

Hi. Good afternoon. This is Candy Peavey. Calling in for your meeting on up against the COVID-19 Control Policy that I was able to review. And I wanted to commend Dr. Wilson on a good job with the majority of the policy. I think especially the sections on prevention and education are very good. However, the section I'm very concerned about is under your definition of COVID-19 outbreaks. We are considered to be in a 41.1% according to the LDH. And you know I sat in several at least three of your meetings plus a pandemic task force meeting. And I was there for the vote and I know that when you voted it was against a mandate. So, I would like and at that point you wanted to change the wording to recommendation for a vaccine for employees. Well, you need to understand a requirement is a mandate. A mandate is a requirement. There's no way around this language. So, Section B during COVID-19 outbreak the parish administrator may require that individuals provide proof of vaccination as a condition of employment. That was a mandate. That is the requirement. That is what you guys the language you chose not to use. You were going to use the word recommendation. So, also this policy if it stands the way it's written, Dr. Wilson you know I love you. But this would give Dr. Wilson fill authority to mandate the vaccine himself. So, there is an abundance of proof right now in LDH CDC that we are dealing with a delta variant. There is also an abundance of proof that the current vaccine is not effective against delta. That's why so many fully vaccinated people are getting sick. Also, the science is clear that anyone who has recovered from this virus is has 20 times more antibodies than the ones who is vaccinated. The COVID recovered person who gets the vaccine is at a much greater risk of harmful side effects. So, requiring or mandating a vaccine across the board for all employees is not the answer the answer the other measure that are in the policy that is the answer. Promoting a healthy lifestyle, how to boost your immunity, prevention and education. I think you've got you guys need to go back and revisit your previous meetings where you discussed recommendation that's where it needs to stand a mandate or a requirement which are the same. Will just not work and very concerned about this language. There's' also a couple of grammatical errors under number C. General procedures definition number C. Covid19 should say illness following covid19 in both places A number C. So, I think everything the temperature screening is great. I think it's a good policy. I just think you really need to think hard about a requirement of that. I know you'll be setting yourself up for a lawsuit. I absolutely now that based on what's going on around the state with other places of employment. That's all I got.

Candice Bacon called in and gave the following comment:

My name is Janet Bacon. I am an employee of Caddo Parish School for a long time. I'm a counselor. And when-Okay it's kind of. I don't know reviewing my on that so I just cut off the live. And I'm just going go talk on the telephone. But anyway, I'm an employee. I'm a counselor of the Caddo Parish School Board and I've been employed for a long time. And they came out with the policy that if you got the

vaccine and you got COVID you could have sick days but if you did not. If you do not get the vaccine you will not get extra sick days like the ones that did get the vaccine. So, I started really researching the vaccines to see you know that I was hearing different things and I couldn't decide about it and so I came across this article just recently that was published in a medical journal. And I was about Israel. And Israel is the-I don't know if y'all know this-but is the highest vaccinated population in the world. They have 8-% of their people are vaccinated. And it was very interesting that they also have the highest ratings of COVID the delta variant right now. So, as you can see just because you get the vaccine certainly does not mean you're not going to get virus. And so, I would highly encourage you to look this up I found it on the main wire. It was Harvard epidemiologist who spoke about this and also there's several important people on there that wrote the study and did the study in Israel. This is very important information because I feel like natural immunity is far superior than the vaccine. And I have natural immunity. I've already had the vaccine. So, I mean I've already had the virus so I feel real strongly that natural immunity is superior to in the vaccine. Also, it said in this same article and study that vaccinated individuals are 27 times more likely get symptomatic COVID infections that those with natural immunity. I just implore you all to really look at the research they've done in Israel before you start mandating vaccines. I also want to tell you quickly about my family. 20 of us had it the first of June. And the way that we got it was through my parents. My parents, my dad's 92 and he has diabetes. And my aunt's 94 has severe asthma. And they were exposed by one of their caregivers who had just gotten a vaccine. He exposed my parents and then we had to go take care of my parents because we didn't want them to go in the hospital to die alone. So, I called a doctor in Texas to treat all of us. And they treated us all with the human form of the prescription ivermectin and I can tell you that I was actually a miracle drug for my family. All of us including the 92 year old and 94 year old recovered in four days. So, now we have natural immunity so it's not right to punish the ones with natural immunity. Not give us the sick days that you're given the vaccinated people. I just implore you to look at the research in Israel to see what's really going on in the world.

Jim Graves submitted the following comment:

My name is James Graves, and I am the Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Citizens Advisory Committee that you established pursuant to Resolution No. 42 of 2021. We have held two meetings so far, and have a third meeting scheduled for September 21, 2021. During our initial meetings we established an open, diverse, and inclusive process for inviting public comment on the work you have given us to do. We believe that our processes and deliberations will reflect credit on Caddo Parish, and you, our commissioners, in resolving our citizen's concerns. On behalf of the eleven members of the Committee, I respectfully request that action on Resolution No. 68 of 2021 be deferred until such time as we can hear from the public and submit our recommendations. While the substance of Resolution 68 is certainly within the possible solutions that the Committee will be considering, we believe it is premature at this time to advance any solution before our processes have concluded. Thank-you for your consideration.

VISITORS

- Tim James Bridge Introduction

Mr. William Bradford introduced himself to the Commission as one of the representatives of Tim James Incorporated, which is an Alabama infrastructure and development company who is interested in creating a new way in southeast Shreveport and South Bossier. He said that are proposing a toll plaza at the Red River south of Jimmy Davis, but north of the Port. The eight miles of roadway will be free for use, with the exception of the toll bridge. Mr. Bradford also said that this project is completely privately funded and does not rely on any tax incentives or tax credits. Under state law, the Commission from each parish is asked to pass legislation effectively authorizing private infrastructure across private land. The next step following approvals from the parishes, will be the process of going through a total design of the route. He said that the route is across all private land, with the exception of a small trapezoid piece of property at the foot of the 3132 and Flournoy Lucas. They are in the process of negotiating with the City at fair market value to encumber that land.

He then gave a description of the route. He explained that it will be a boulevard free for use until you get to the toll bridge. They will take the end of 3132 and complete that to Hwy 1. It will then go above the railroad tracks above Hwy 1 to alleviate some of the wait time into the badger, which is the area between the two levees between Caddo and Bossier Parish. There are several restrictions that the Army Corps of Engineers will impose, but they will be compliant to their requirements. The toll bridge will then connect Caddo Parish to Bossier Parish and will land on Hwy 71. There will be some spurs to different areas and streets, which will be free for use. They are anticipating a \$2 for regular passenger vehicles.

Mr. Atkins said that this route will be a zero grade boulevard that goes near the 3132 and will be less intrusive to the existing state proposal of 3121. Mr. Bradford agreed and said that they've been in constant contact with DOTD and NLCOG regarding this project. He also mentioned that they have the capacities as a private industry to make more considerations for visual and sound clutter as well as pollution. Mr. Atkins said that those state dollars could be used for other projects.

Mr. Cawthorne wanted to know if the toll fee would be in perpetuity. Mr. Bradford said that there is not a sunset on the toll fee.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if Flournoy Lucas will still be a free route. Mr. Bradford stated that it will. He also said that this route will not prohibit any citizen from take an existing free public route.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Ordinance No. 6104 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budgets of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Building Maintenance Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, General Fund, Parks & Recreation Fund, Oil & Gas Fund, Public Works Fund, Detention Facilities Fund, Juvenile Justice Fund, Riverboat Fund, and the Solid Waste Fund for the year 2021 to terminate completed or lapsed capital projects, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Substitute motion by Mr. Lazarus, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to englobo and move the following ordinances to Thursday's agenda for introduction:*

- *Ordinance No. 6104 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budgets of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Building Maintenance Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, General Fund, Parks & Recreation Fund, Oil & Gas Fund, Public Works Fund, Detention Facilities Fund, Juvenile Justice Fund, Riverboat Fund, and the Solid Waste Fund for the year 2021 to terminate completed or lapsed capital projects, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6105 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund for the year 2021 to appropriate Emergency Rental Assistance Program from the State of Louisiana and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6106 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund for the year 2021 to reduce the budget for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6107 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation of up to \$30,000 for the Martin Luther King Homeowners Association, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6108 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Parks & Recreated Fund to appropriate No Kid Hungry Grant proceeds in the amount of \$49,925 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6110 of 2021, an ordinance amending Section 8-8 to expand training opportunities for Animal Control Officers*

At this time, Mr. Lazarus' substitute motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that the Tax Board of Review from Tax Assessor Charles Henington* be moved to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that the proposed COVID-19 Control Policy* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Atkins explained that the Charter provides this responsibility to the Parish Administrator. He believes it is appropriate that this document was provided, and he also believes that it is appropriate to forward it for review on Thursday's agenda.

Substitute motion by Mr. Chavez, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to remove the following language from the proposed COVID Control Policy: B. During a COVID-19 outbreak, the Parish Administrator may require that individuals provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 as a condition of employment.*

Mr. Chavez said that he does not feel comfortable mandating employees to get a vaccination.

Mr. Burrell said that there is misinformation circulating that people are calling legitimate studies. He said that along with the Delta Variant, there is the Mu Variant.

Mr. Epperson will be opposing the substitute motion, and suggested that everything be taken up during Thursday's Regular Session.

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

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

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Dr. Wilson said that 7,552 applicants have been served under this program. He also mentioned that there is no waiting period for any of the assistance, as long as all the documentation is completed properly.

- Juvenile Detention Center

Dr. Wilson said there are currently fifteen juveniles in the detention center and six 17-year-olds; two of which came from Houma because of Hurricane Ida. There are eight juveniles in CCC.

- Vaccination Clinic

Dr. Wilson announced that there will be a vaccination clinic tomorrow morning in the lobby of the Government Plaza from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

COMMUNIQES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Epperson announced that Pleasant Hill Baptist Church will host a vaccination clinic on Sunday, September 20 from 11:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

- Mr. Burrell talked about ivermectin. He said that this medication is used as a horse dewormer. He also said that he has not heard of it in human. He is cautious about putting this information out to the public.

He also noticed that there are some bags on top of the catch basins in the Lakeshore Drive area. He wanted to know what it was.

- Mr. Hopkins asked for an update on the redistricting process. Dr. Wilson said that the RFP has been completed. Only organization responded to it. Mr. Hopkins said that it was put on the website, but it was not sent out to companies.

- The Clerk of the Commission reminded the Commissioners that they will sit as the Tax Board of Review to hear 2022 assessment appeals during a Special Meeting on September 15, 2021.

PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

Mr. Johnson said that he visited the shelter on Jewella to ensure they are being treated fairly. He said that there are about 912 evacuees, but the shelter has a 1,200 person capacity. Mr. Johnson said that the building may not be able to house 1,200 people and practice social distancing. He suggested that the Commission look at either opening up a new shelter or sending the evacuees to another shelter.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know how many shelters were open in Caddo Parish. Mr. Johnson said that Caddo only has one shelter. Mr. Johnson also mentioned that the shelter does need wheelchairs.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6083 of 2021, in regards to Zoning Case No. 21-13-P, 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 north side of Flournoy Lucas Road, approximately five hundred fifteen feet west of Winderweedle Road, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-A, Rural Agriculture District to R-A PUD, Rural Agriculture Planned Unit Development District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6099 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated*

Revenues & Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for vaccine and pandemic coordination efforts, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

- *Ordinance No. 6101 of 2021, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Section 32-46.1 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances regarding the Carrying of Weapons and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Introduction of Ordinance No. 6102 of 2021, in regards to Zoning Case 21-27-P, 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 north side of Ellerbe Road at the end of Redrick Drive, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-1-7, Single-Family Residential District to C-1, Neighborhood Commercial District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Introduction of Ordinance No. 6103 of 2021, an ordinance creating the “Amazon TIF District, State of Louisiana”; defining the boundaries thereof from which area local sales tax, property tax, and hotel & occupancy tax increments will be determined and used to finance economic development projects in accordance with and as authorized by Part II of Chapter 27 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; and providing for other matters in connection with the foregoing*
- *Resolution No. 62 of 2021, a resolution to relocate the polling place for Precinct 72 from LSUS Baptist Student Center, One University Place, Shreveport, LA 71115 to University Elementary School, 9900 Smitherman Drive, Shreveport, LA 71115, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 63 of 2021, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to consent to the assignment of State Agency Leases 19509, 20131, 20133, and 20134, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 64 of 2021, a resolution requesting the Registrar of Voters and Caddo Parish Administrator to take all necessary action to add an early voting location at the Shreve Memorial Hamilton Library, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 65 of 2021, a resolution giving notice of intention to create an economic development district, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Special Resolution honoring Irene Kamala Lacy*
- *Special Resolution recognizing Vanessa Brown*
- *Special Resolution recognizing August as Children’s Eye Health & Safety Awareness Month*
- *Special Resolution honoring Caddo Centenarian Geneva Moore on her 106th Birthday*
- *Special Resolution acknowledging former State Representative Barbara Norton*
- *Reappoint Brad Schmidt to the Industrial Development Board. Term to expire August 22, 2027.*
- *Reappoint LaSonya Moore to the Industrial Development Board. Term to expire August 22, 2027.*
- *Appoint one to the Industrial Development Board—Clay Hargett or Matt Wood. Term to expire August 22, 2027.*
- *Joint Appointment of Andrew Crawford to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to expire April 10, 2024.*
- *Appoint K.C. Kilpatrick Baird, Jamar “Doc” Myers Montgomery, Jessica Yeates, and Sheila Wimberly to the Juvenile Justice Citizen’s Advisory Committee.*
- *Work Session Minutes August 16, 2021*
- *Regular Session Minutes August 5, 2021*

Work Session Minutes
September 7, 2021

- *Action relative to oil and gas drilling in District 12*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

/s/Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk