

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 18TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2021

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Johnson, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). ABSENT: None (0).

Mr. Taliaferro gave the invocation, and Mr. Cawthorne led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS

- Metropolitan Planning Commission
Alan Clarke, Director of MPC
Adam Bailey, Community Planning Staff

Mr. Clarke came before the Commission to give an update on the digital application process with the MPC.

Mr. Bailey said gave a timeline of the project. The Commission appropriated \$25,000 to the MPC to develop a “mobile-first” experience where citizens can interact with MPC staff digitally. After sending out an RFP and looking at local and national firms, Granicus was ultimately chosen to complete the task. Once the contract was signed, they created a wish list, which included a citizen-focused approach, progressive mobile web design, and provide ongoing support to the citizens. It will also include a GIS feature, which will include a search feature of a particular property. With this feature, an address can be inputted in the search bar, and it will pull up a use matrix for that property, the elected officials for that property, etc. The website will also be mobile friendly. The launch for it is October 26, 2021.

Ms. Emily Trant, MPC, went over the website. She said that there will be an Event, News, and Spotlight portion of the website that will feature upcoming meetings, neighborhood participation meetings, and any upcoming legislation. The website will also feature an How Do I tab, which will provide a roadmap for applicants to know how to contact the MPC, submit an application, etc.

Mr. Johnson suggested that a legend be provided, so the applicants know what the acronyms such as R-A, PUD, etc. stands for.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know what would be done to make the public aware of the new and improved website. Mr. Clark said that they have made an effort to educate the public on the happenings of the MPC through neighborhood meetings, community planning, etc.

Mr. Chavez commended the MPC on creating a digital roadmap and a step-by-step checklist for potential business owners and developers coming to Caddo Parish. Mr. Clark pointed out that if a citizen is technologically challenged, they can still come down to Government Plaza and the MPC can help them in-person.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know if there was a helpdesk number that a citizen can call if they need help. Mr. Clark said that any citizen can call the MPC, and a staff member can assist them. Mr. Taliaferro also wanted to know if there was a place on the website for customer service feedback. Mr. Clark said that there is a place where customers can provide feedback to let the MPC know how they are doing.

Mr. Jackson pointed out that the Commission may not be involved in the MPC much longer. He wanted to know if the Commission will still have access to this site. Mr. Clark said that the MPC is attached to the Commission for the next two months. If the Commission decides to discontinue that partnership, then the MPC will have no choice but to limit their services to the City of Shreveport.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Ordinance No. 6117 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Caddo Parish Personnel Policy to require that all parish employees hired, appointed or promoted to Parish Attorney, Assistant Parish Administrator, Parish Administrator/CEO, Department Director or Commission Clerk, must be residents of Caddo Parish, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday’s agenda for introduction.

Mr. Burrell believes that if “you want to lead in the Parish, you should live in this Parish”.

Mr. Hopkins said that he was the discerning vote in Committee. He does not believe that the directors should live in the Parish. He understands the Commission Clerk and the Administrator because they work for the Commission body, but the Administrator should have the latitude to hire the

best that he can get.

Mr. Atkins agreed with Mr. Hopkins and said that there are people who have worked for the Parish for twenty years or so and are eligible for promotion. He said that this ordinance would make them sell their house and uproot their family in order to be promoted. There's lots of way to add value to the Parish; you can add value by living in the Parish and paying taxes, or you can add value by providing good services and skills to the Parish, he said.

Mrs. Gage-Watts agreed with Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Atkins. She also wanted to know how many employees live in Caddo Parish. Dr. Wilson said that the majority of employees live in Caddo. She believes that this is advantageous for new employees, but does not want to support current employees having to live in Caddo Parish.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if the existing employees would be grandfathered in. Mr. Johnson said that current department heads that do not live in Caddo Parish should be grandfathered in. Mr. Jackson said that is not reflected in the ordinance. He also said that there was supposed to be a difference between residence and domicile.

Attorney Frazier said that it is her understanding that there are not any department heads who do not live in Caddo Parish. If there are, then the ordinance would need to be amended to reflect them being grandfathered in. She also said that residency will be defined by HR and put in the Personnel Policy.

Dr. Wilson said that there are a few current directors who do not live in Caddo Parish, and they should be grandfathered in.

Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that current employees in those positions are grandfathered in, and this ordinance would apply to new employees.*

Mr. Johnson believes that the directors should live in Caddo Parish. He agreed with Mr. Burrell and feels that if someone is going to lead Caddo Parish, then they should live here to pay property taxes here. Mr. Cawthorne agreed with Mr. Johnson.

Dr. Wilson pointed out that the Parish of Caddo is investing in the employees by paying for education. He said that these employees are here for 10-20 years and are eligible for promotion, but this ordinance would not make them eligible for that promotion.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if this ordinance speaks to a person's domicile or residency. Attorney Frazier reiterated that the HR will provide that definition, and it will be placed in the Personnel Policy. She also explained that the "unwritten rule" is that if a person is registered to vote in Caddo Parish, they're considered a resident.

Mr. Jackson said that this is a "pro-Caddo" policy. He said that this is encouraging individuals to move to Caddo and grow it.

Dr. Wilson pointed out that out of the eight directors, only one lives outside of Caddo Parish. Mr. Jackson said that several people will be retiring soon, so this ordinance looks forward. Dr. Wilson mentioned that they like to promote from within, and they would "hate to penalize someone for where they live".

Mr. Lazarus agreed with Dr. Wilson. He said that if they are the best for the job, then they are the best for the job no matter where they live.

Mr. Cawthorne suggested that the language be amended to reflect current employees to be grandfathered in and that this be applied only to new applicants.

Mr. Chavez feels that the best person for the job should be hired.

Mr. Atkins understands the logic behind this proposal. He also said that there are circumstances in which people live in other locations, such as caring for elderly parents, maintaining family property, etc.

Substitute motion by Mrs. Gage-Watts, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to remand this Ordinance back to the Personnel Policies & Procedures Committee.*

Mrs. Gage-Watts feels that this ordinance should be vetted further.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that this ordinance will only apply to the Administrator, Assistant Administrator, Commission Clerk, Parish Attorney, and eight department heads. He said that the top salaried people at the Parish of Caddo should have to live in Caddo Parish to keep the money in Caddo.

Mr. Taliaferro said that the best person for the job should be hired and not based on

where they live.

Call for the Question by Mr. Epperson. Motion died due to the lack of a second.

Mr. Jackson pointed out that Caddo Parish had net population loss of 20,000 people during the last Census. He said that the Commission should be encouraging people to stay in Caddo, especially if they work for Caddo Parish.

Mr. Epperson said that he received an email from a person showing blight and trash in Caddo Parish. He responded to the person that they need to be involved to make Caddo better.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Ordinance No. 6118 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for counseling in public high schools in Caddo Parish and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Chavez would like to amend the ordinance for up to \$50,000 for Southwood High School and up to \$50,000 for other Caddo Parish Schools.

Mr. Chavez said that he put this ordinance on the agenda due to the recent events that have taken place at Southwood High School. He said that there have been numerous fights where the Sheriff's Department had to be called in. Mr. Chavez said that he spoke with a gentleman that runs Team Impact at Green Oaks, and they are having huge success. He said that this program could also be implemented at Southwood for \$50,000. Mr. Chavez said that the additional \$50,000 would be for other schools in Caddo Parish.

Mr. Chavez also spoke with his Caddo School Board Member and asked if the Commission sets up this program, would they continue to fund it. The School Board Member told him that they would. Mr. Chavez also spoke with Super Intendent Lamar Goree and is waiting on a callback from him.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know why the School Board isn't using their ARP funds to implement this program. Mr. Epperson agreed and believes that this issue is a direct responsibility of the Caddo Parish School Board.

Substitute motion from Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to remand Ordinance No. 6118 of 2021 to the American Rescue Plan Committee.*

Mr. Jackson does not recall this being placed in committee nor seeing a proposal or application on this request. He pointed out that the Dads On Duty are doing a great job and should be included in this discussion, along with the Principal and Super Intendent.

Mr. Cawthorne agreed and said that Seed Links would do an excellent job with this. He also suggested that there be a matching commitment from the Caddo Parish School Board.

Mr. Chavez said that he will be voting for this to go to Committee. He also said that the Caddo Commission should not be funding after school tutoring programs and would like to look at that as well moving forward. He also mentioned that this counseling is necessary for those students at Southwood. If we don't get the counseling for those students now, we're going to end up footing the bill for them next year at the Juvenile Detention Center, he said.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that public safety is the Commission's priority. She said that she is in support of this ordinance, and would like to see other schools included.

Mr. Johnson also supports this ordinance. He also said that the Commission is responsible for people from newborns until they are deceased; the School Board is only responsible for students beginning at Kindergarten until 12th grade. He also said that if the School Board is falling short on things they should be doing, then they should be called out on it. He disagrees with removing after school programs from the NGO process. He said that this is a preventive measure to keep those children out of the Juvenile Detention Center.

Mr. Epperson mentioned that the after school tutoring programs have to go through the budgetary process.

Mr. Jackson noted that the Commission has a responsibility to economic development which ties into public safety.

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

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 6119 of 2021, an ordinance adopting the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Shreve Memorial Library for the year 2022* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Cawthorne understands that this is a pass through, but would like to know why there is a \$4.5M deficit. Mr. Johnson pointed out that the Commission is not responsible for this deficit.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if the Shreve Memorial Library is on the Commission's debt service or the City's debt service. Dr. Wilson said that the Commission approves their bonds, but they are managed financially by the City of Shreveport. Mr. Jackson said that they are paying off their debt service quicker than anticipated and believes this, along with capital projects, are attributing towards their deficit.

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, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to remand the following resolutions to the Natural Resources Committee*:

- *Resolution No. 72 of 2021, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to request and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations and advertise for oil, gas and mineral leases, accept bids, and award and execute oil, gas and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 73 of 2021, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to request and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations, advertise for, accept and award bids, and execute all oil, gas and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 74 of 2021, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to request and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations and advertise for oil, gas and mineral leases, accept bids, and award and execute oil, gas and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

Mr. Epperson said that ordinances were put in place during the beginning of the Haynesville Shale regarding oil and gas drilling. Since about 2007, nothing has been put in place with regards to dust, noise, and other complaints from citizens due to the drilling.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if there was a time restraint on these resolutions. Mr. Jimmy Whittington, Public Works, said that there was not.

Mr. Jackson suggested that a representative be present at the Natural Resources Committee.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Resolution No. 75 of 2021, a resolution adopting the Parish of Caddo's Preliminary Floodplain Species Assessment as part of the Parish's Floodplain Management Program, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Jackson asked for clarification regarding this resolution. Dr. Wilson explained that completing this assessment would provide the citizens with a 10% discount on their flood insurance. Mr. Johnson wanted to know if this was parish-wide. Dr. Wilson said that it is.

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

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Resolution No. 76 of 2021, a resolution authorizing the Parish of Caddo to join with the State of Louisiana and other local governmental units as a participant in the Louisiana State-Local Government Opioid Litigation Memorandum of Understanding (the "MOU") and any subsequent formal agreements necessary to implement the MOU, including but not limited to, the Subdivision Settlement Participation Form(S) in Exhibit K of the Distributor Settlement Agreement and the Janssen Settlement Agreement, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Dr. Wilson explained that the Parish of Caddo is currently involved in a class action lawsuit with the opioid drug manufacturers, and they are reaching a settlement. This legislation has to be put forward to be a part of that settlement.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if this was separate from the AG's lawsuit. Attorney Frazier said that it was not. She also explained that this is a part of the settlement that the AG is entering into. Mr. Jackson asked that an executive session be had to hear all the details of the lawsuit. Dr. Wilson said that they do not have all the details just yet.

Mr. Jackson then wanted to know if the funds from the settlement would go to Juvenile Services. Attorney Frazier explained that there will be specific parameters for the uses, but they will not know those parameters until a settlement is reached.

Attorney Frazier also mentioned that they could invite the attorneys representing the Parish in the lawsuit to come and talk to the Commissioners.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if this is the only lawsuit out there right now. Attorney Frazier said that this is the only lawsuit that the Parish of Caddo is involved in. Mr. Johnson then wanted to know why it took so long to get to a settlement. Attorney Frazier said that it has been in litigation since the Parish signed onto the lawsuit. She also said that some of the companies have filed bankruptcy, etc.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Resolution No. 77 of 2021, a resolution recognizing October 11, 2021 as "Indigenous Peoples Day" in Caddo Parish, in recognition of America's first inhabitants and the tribal nations that continue to thrive today, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Young suggested that the Caddo People be included in this resolution. Mr. Epperson agreed and hopes that some of the Caddo Indians will be present at Thursday's Regular Session.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Resolution No. 78 of 2021, resolution authorizing the Caddo Parish Administrator to enter into an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development obligating the Parish to pay 10% of the construction cost, and assume all legal liability for, and all maintenance and operating cost, of the subject Boom or Bust Scenic View Project-No. H.013315, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Atkins asked for more clarification on this project. Dr. Wilson explained that this project is an improvement to the Robert Nance Park. He also said that this is a \$175,000 project, but the Commission's share is \$17,000. Mr. Johnson suggested that this information be put in the language of the Resolution.

Mr. Patrick Wesley, Parks & Recreation Director, said that the total cost of the project at Earl G. Williamson Park is over \$500,000. He said that this is basically a visitor's station that will promote the park and encourage visitors to stop by and visit the trails and Caddo Lake area.

Attorney Frazier explained that this resolution is a requirement from the State; the Commission has already appropriated the funds in the budget.

Mr. Hopkins explained that the State is putting in tables at Robert Nance Park. Mr. Johnson would like a fact sheet explaining this resolution better.

Mr. Chavez would like to see an up to amount regarding the liability at the park. Dr. Wilson said that the Parish already owns the park. Attorney Frazier said that this resolution is so that the Parish will own the improvement of the park.

Mr. Young wanted to know if there is space for fruit trees at this park. Dr. Wilson said that there is, but fruit trees cannot be planted with this grant. Mr. Hopkins said that there's not that much room at the park for fruit trees.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Resolution No. 79 of 2021, a resolution urging and requesting the United States Congress to require social media applications to restrict access to students on school grounds, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Chavez said that he put this resolution on the agenda due to the Southwood incidents. He explained that the students are misbehaving, and it is stemming back to social media. He said that there is currently a TikTok challenge to slap a teacher, destroying school property, etc. Mr. Chavez would like to see social media not work at school from the hours of 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Chavez also explained that the State is working on online gambling and geo-fencing parishes who have outlawed online gambling. This would block online gambling in those parishes. He suggested that something similar happen with social media and schools. He said that the reason this is to Congress is because they are the ones who control the FCC.

Mr. Epperson believes that this is a School Board issue. He suggested that cellphones be banned at school since they are a necessary tool for learning at school.

Mr. Johnson agreed and feels that this is a School Board resolution. He also pointed out that a student could still record the misbehavior and upload it to social media once they are off schoolgrounds.

Mr. Cawthorne agreed that this needs to be vetted further in committee. He suggested teaming up with the School Board to hash this out.

Mr. Atkins said that seems to be out of the Commission's lane, but he appreciates the intent of this resolution. He said that he will not be voting for this resolution.

Mr. Jackson said that some of the school's WiFi already blocks certain websites. He also said that the students created tunnels to work around those blocks. Mr. Jackson also feels that the School Board should be involved.

Mr. Chavez agreed and said that cellphones should not be at school, but does not feel that "a student can be successful in this day and age without their cellphone". He said that the public is looking to see what the leaders of this Parish are doing to combat the social media problems at the schools.

Mr. Young also suggested that this type of resolution be directed to the School Board. He also said that the students could lock their phones up during the day and feels that nobody needs their phones to learn at school.

Substitute motion by Mr. Cawthorne, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to remand Resolution No. 79 of 2021 to the Long-Range Planning Committee.*

Mr. Cawthorne feels that this resolution needs to be vetted further with the School Board being a part of the discussion.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobe and move the following special resolutions to Thursday's agenda for consideration:*

- *Authorize Special Resolution for Shirley Simmons Snell*
- *Authorize Special Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation for the 2021 Winners Of The Trey Hutchison Domestic Violence Prevention Award*
- *Authorize Special Resolution of Appreciation and Recognition For C. Wright Pink Ribbon For Breast Cancer Awareness 10 Year Anniversary*

- *Authorize Special Resolution for Mrs. Fannie Mae May Upon Her 100th Birthday*
- *Authorize Special Resolution Recognizing National Disability Employment Awareness Month and The Efforts of Goodwill Industries*
- *Authorize Special Resolution Recognizing Sharon Johnson*
- *Authorize Special Resolution Recognizing Filipino American Heritage Month*

Mrs. Gage-Watts requested that everyone wear pink on Thursday in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that the consideration of revisions to the Classified Personnel Policies, Rules, & Regulations* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Hopkins asked that everyone review the changes that HR made to the Personnel Policies, Rules, & Regulations.

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, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to englobo and move the following appointments to Thursday's agenda for consideration:*

- *David Hoey to the Northwest Louisiana Human Services District. Term to expire August 6, 2027*
- *Patrick Wesley to the Shreveport Bossier Sports Commission to fill the unexpired term of Billy Montgomery*
- *JoAnn Witkowski to the Caddo Parish Sewer District No. 7 Board. Term to expire November 1, 2025*

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

COMMUNIQES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Jackson asked Administration to reconvene a group regarding the law school. He also commended Parks & Recreation for all of their hard work during the Safe Summer Program.

- Mr. Cawthorne wanted to know where Legal was on the CEA process for the American Rescue Plan dollars. Attorney Frazier said that the process is ongoing, and should be done in another month or so. Mrs. Bryant explained that they notified the recipients that they would not be receiving funding until 2022 because it would be difficult to comply with the recording requirements for 2021. She also said that those budgets will be presented to the Commission with the 2022 Budget.

Mr. Cawthorne also offered condolences to General Colin Powell who passed away this week.

- Mr. Epperson said that he sent an email to Public Works and hadn't received acknowledgement of anyone receiving the email. He asked that Administration and Public Works look into this matter.

- Mr. Burrell asked for an update on the coyote situation and the Shreveport Country Club. Mr. Kelvin Samuels said that they are still trapping. They conducted an aerial surveillance of the area and do not see any signs of anymore coyotes. Mr. Samuels said that he will try and get him to attend Thursday's Regular Session.

Mr. Burrell also said that they have not fully instated the Broadband Committee, but there seems to be a considerable amount of interests in this matter.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Emergency Rental Assistance Program Update

Dr. Wilson said that there are sufficient funds to continue the program, and approximately \$25M will be spent in that program to help citizens in Caddo Parish.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if there was another tranche of money coming to the Parish. Mrs. Bryant said that there may be more funds coming to the Parish from other parishes who are not using their monies, but they do not have that exact number yet.

- Juvenile Detention Center

Dr. Wilson said that there are twenty kids in the detention center; five of which are 17 year olds, four are being transferred to OJJ. There are also eleven children in CCC now.

- I-49 Welcome Signs

Dr. Wilson said that the pre-bid conference will be held on November 1, then the bids are due on November 15, and thirty days following that, the project can begin.

- COVID-19 Update

Dr. Wilson said that there are no positive COVID exposures since his last report.

- September Financials

Dr. Wilson said that the September Financials are attached to the agenda, as well as a copy placed at each Commissioner's station.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if Legal would need assistance with the CEAs for the American Rescue Plan Fund, NGOs, and the Economic Development Fund. Attorney Frazier believes that they can handle it, but if that should change, she'll request additional help. She also pointed out that the NGOs will receive their money when they submit their report. Attorney Frazier also mentioned that the recipients of the ARP funding will also need to be cleared with the NGO reporting—if they receive NGO funding—prior to receiving their ARP monies. Mr. Johnson mentioned that there are new organizations who applied for ARP funding. Attorney Frazier said typically new organizations are taken care of first with regards to NGO.

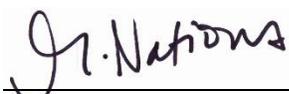
Mr. Johnson also wanted to know if the riverboats lie in Shreveport or Caddo Parish. Attorney Frazier is not sure if that would drive the decision making process as far as the law making is concerned because you can't get to the boat in the river without entering the City of Shreveport. She also pointed out that Caddo Parish does not have a boat that lies wholly in the Parish. Mr. Johnson wanted to know how one governing body can make a vote that affects other governing entities. Attorney Frazier said that is where the jurisdiction is. If the boat is sued, it would be brought into the City Court of Shreveport. If it is a certain amount, it will be brought to Caddo Parish. It also determines where those agencies can prosecute.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6096 of 2021, an ordinance declaring certain adjudicated properties to be surplus and to authorize the Parish Administrator, or a designee, to sell the Parish of Caddo's tax interest in certain surplus adjudicated properties, 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 otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *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 (as amended)*
- *Ordinance No. 6109 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and 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*

- *Ordinance No. 6111 of 2021, an ordinance to amend and reenact Article II of Chapter 19 of the Code of Ordinances relative to Housing and Economic Development, to provide additional requirements for applicants, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6116 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Health Tax Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation of \$54,000 to purchase drones to distribute larvicides and adulticides to help combat the mosquito population and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk