

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 6th DAY OF JANUARY, 2022

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

The invocation was given by Mrs. Gage-Watts, and Mr. Chavez led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to expand the agenda and add proposed Resolution No. 9 of 2022, a resolution authorizing the Parish Attorney's Office to request an opinion from the Louisiana State Attorney General's Office regarding the authority of the Parish Commission functioning as a Planning & Zoning Commission and otherwise providing with respect thereto under Resolutions.*

Mr. Epperson asked for clarification for Resolution No. 9. Mr. Johnson explained that it deals with obtaining an Attorney General's opinion regarding the Caddo Parish Commission acting as a Planning & Zoning Commission.

Mr. Young said that this resolution is a response to the many communications that have been received from constituents in the rural parts of the Parish. They prefer not to have an appointed board of unelected people to make zoning and planning decisions.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that a Commission can submit a request for an Attorney General's opinion without a resolution. Attorney Bernstein explained that if it is a request from the Commission, it needs to be a formal resolution of the governing authority.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know the difference between this and having an MPC. He said that they are not elected to make zoning decisions. Mr. Young explained that the planning board as envisioned by Ordinance No. 6071 would be an appointed board. If the Caddo Parish Commissioners served as the zoning board, then it would be made up of elected officials.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if the Legal staff have an opinion on the legality of this issue. Attorney Bernstein explained that it is his and Attorney Frazier's opinion that the Caddo Commission would have to appoint a planning commission, and not the Caddo Commissioners serves as the planning commission.

Call for the Question by Mr. Epperson, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Young's motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSENT: None (0). 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 158 JBE 2020 and Number 159 JBE 2020; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 42:17.1 allows members of political subdivisions to participate in its meetings electronically under certain limited circumstances.

THEREFORE, in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 42:17.1, the presiding officer of the Caddo Parish 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 are critical to the health, safety, or welfare of the public.
- (b) that if they are delayed will cause curtailment of vital public services or severe economic dislocation 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 should not 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: January 5, 2022


Lyndon B. Johnson
Caddo Parish Commission
President

SELECTION OF 2022 CADDO COMMISSION OFFICERS

Mr. Johnson opened the floor for nominations for the 2022 Caddo Commission officers.

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to nominate Mr. Atkins for the 2022 Caddo Commission President.*

Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to nominate Mr. Atkins for 2022 Caddo Commission President, Mr. Burrell for 2022 Caddo Commission Vice-President, and Mr. Young for 2022 Caddo Commission Parliamentarian.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mayquie Jackson called in and gave the following comment:

How are you all feeling? I am great. I am actually like to add I have been feeling anxious for the fact that crisis does not take a holiday. Crisis shows up everyday on unwanted guests. Crisis really show up and show out. Crisis doesn't care about crisis. I am the CEO/founder of Operation Neighborhood Reinforcement. I was asked the Caddo Parish Commission APR Committee which was held on November 4, 2021 November, and I wasn't truly impressed with the Parish and the ARP Committee environment within the Caddo Parish. I would welcome the opportunity to be a part of that. As I look forward to hearing from the full body Caddo Parish Commission on the final decision on funding, I anticipate and anxiously we wait. We do not know when we are going to mobilize our crisis team within the Caddo Parish. I was told the next second funding would be added to the workforce session full body agenda to be voted on. And so we are here just to say to the full body when can we be added to the agenda item as an agenda item. I yield back.

VISITORS

- Citizens Advisory Committee—Juvenile Services

Ms. Sheila Wimberly said that the Citizens Advisory Committee met yesterday with nine present, two absent, and one position unfilled. She said that they introduced themselves to each other. Ms. Wimberly appreciates the opportunity to get to work on Juvenile Services issues.

The Clerk of the Commission listed all the members on the Committee: K.C. Kilpatrick Baird, Jamar "Doc" Myers Montgomery, Jessica Yeates, Shelia Wimberly, McGail Parsons, Candy Beard, Gisele Proby-Bryant, Heather Courtney, Ken Krefft, Lt. General James Kowalski, and Ryan Williams.

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Regular Session Minutes December 9, 2021 and Special Session Minutes January 4, 2022 be adopted.* Motion carried by acclamation.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that Special Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation proclaiming Monday, January 31, 2022 as Louisiana National Guard Day in Caddo Parish be adopted.*

Lt. Gen. Lee Hopkins thanked Mr. Epperson and the Caddo Parish Commission for recognizing the soldiers and airmen of the Louisiana National Guard. He said that the elected officials and

first responders, together with the National Guard, are committed to this mission. Lt. Hopkins appreciates the relationship the Guard has with the Parish. He thanked the Commission once again for recognizing and honoring the Guard.

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

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission recognizes and commends the Louisiana National Guard for their service, commitment, and selfless dedication throughout 2020; and

WHEREAS, during this tumultuous year, the Louisiana National Guard displayed incredible dedication through its efforts to protect the lives and welfare of Caddo Parish citizens and Louisianans; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana National Guard was called to action regarding the COVID-19 global pandemic, as well as responding to devastation left by Hurricanes Laura and Delta; and

WHEREAS, the Guard has stood on the forefront administering tests and delivering personal protective equipment to help combat the dangerous and deadly COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana National Guard has supported missions involving transportation, communications, public works, and generators and power supply to those who were affected by Hurricanes Laura and Delta. The Guard has also cleared nearly 1,800 miles of roadway of hurricane debris; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana National Guard stands ready to protect and assist the citizens of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and the United States of America by being deployed in multiple overseas missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other dangerous areas; and

WHEREAS, for their invaluable commitment this Parish, State, and Country, the Louisiana National Guard has earned their deepest gratitude.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 6th day of January, 2021, that it does hereby proclaim Sunday, January 31, 2022 as:

'Louisiana National Guard Day'

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens to join with the Parish in recognition of this important day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby express its sincere appreciation to the Louisiana National Guard who stepped up to the plate during these difficult times and commend the Guard for their hard work, dedication, and lifesaving efforts through 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby extend sincere hopes and wishes that the Louisiana National Guardsmen remain safe and in good health as they continue to serve this Parish, State, and Country.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Special Resolution of Appreciation & Recognition for Mr. Sunrose "Gay Poppa" Rutledge* be adopted.

Mr. Jackson said that Mr. Rutledge has been a fixture in the community for decades. He also mentioned there is going to be a street dedication in his honor.

Mr. Epperson said that Gay Poppa had a radio show in the mornings called Check In, where people would call in to check in and let him know you were up and getting ready to go to school.

Mr. Burrell said that Gay Poppa is a fantastic person and community leader.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried by acclamation.

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION SUNROSE "GAY POPPA" RUTLEDGE

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission notes with interest and satisfaction the significant events that occur in the lives of citizens who have made significant and lasting contributions to Caddo Parish, the State of Louisiana and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, such an individual is MR. SUNROSE "GAY POPPA" RUTLEDGE, legendary broadcast radio personality and a lasting influencer of Caddo's longest running urban radio station, KOKA,

who will be honored as a living legend during a street dedication and parade January 31st on Madison Avenue in Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, Rutledge is noted for his successful and influential time as a Disc Jockey who introduced Caddo citizens to many emerging artists whose work has resonated throughout the past decades and become part of the cultural landscape of our society, acts like B. B. King, The Jackson Five, and James Brown were drawn to Shreveport at Rutledge's call; and

WHEREAS, Rutledge's stewarding of KOKA saw many successes over the years by reflecting the needs of the community, whether that meant providing access to contemporary Urban music when that access was limited, or supplying spiritual nourishment as an all Gospel station or as a platform to inform and engage listeners by acting as a beacon for leaders from Governor Edwin Edwards to local leaders of faith, community and government; and

WHEREAS, Rutledge would go on to inspire generations of notable Radio personalities in the Shreveport/Caddo market, including current KOKA Director CeeJay Johnson who has partnered with Southern University to honor Rutledge for his cultural contributions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, this 6th day of January, 2022, that it does hereby heartily congratulate and commend Mr. Sunrose "Gay Poppa" Rutledge for using his talents to create a legacy of lifting up the Urban Communities of Caddo Parish through his broadcast radio career and declares January 31st, 2022 to be:

`SUNROSE `GAY POPPA' RUTLEDGE DAY'

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,, that this Commission does pray that Mr. Sunrose "Gay Poppa" Rutledge may continue to enjoy the love of his fans, the respect of his peers, and the grace of his Lord through many more years to come

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

- Ordinance No. 6152 of 2021, an ordinance to accept the streets in New Territory Subdivision Unit VI into the Parish of Caddo Road System, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6153 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 reside in Caddo Parish, and otherwise providing with respect thereto

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

ORDINANCES (For Final Passage)

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Ordinance No. 6152 of 2021, an ordinance to accept the streets in New Territory Subdivision Unit VI into the Parish of Caddo Road System, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Hopkins said that these roads are just north of District 2, but are in District 1. He explained that it meets all parish regulations and standards. He asked that these roads be taken into the Parish Road System for maintenance and repairs.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if this was a subdivision. Dr. Wilson agreed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6152 OF 2022

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE STREETS IN NEW TERRITORY SUBDIVISION UNIT VI INTO THE PARISH OF CADDO ROAD SYSTEM, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a request to accept the streets in New Territory Subdivision Unit VI, into the Parish of Caddo road system;

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received and reviewed the subdivision plats showing

a dedication to the Parish of Caddo; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo finds that the acceptance of the subdivisions into the Parish of Caddo system 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 Parish of Caddo hereby accepts into the Parish of Caddo road system all of the streets in New Territory Subdivision Unit VI, Caddo Parish, Louisiana as shown on the attached subdivision plat marked as "Exhibit A".

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a copy of this ordinance, with a subdivision plat of the New Territory Subdivision Unit VI attached thereto as "Exhibit A", shall be filed in the conveyance records of the Parish of Caddo.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provision or item of this ordinance or application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provision, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall be effective ten days after publication in the official journal.

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. Burrell, *that Ordinance No. 6153 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 reside in Caddo Parish, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Johnson said that this has been vetted prior to today's meeting. He pointed out that there is a proposed campaign to bring people back to Caddo Parish. Mr. Johnson said that the Department Heads should also live in Caddo Parish. He also mentioned that this is for new hires, and the current employees are grandfathered in. Mr. Hopkins agreed with the grandfather clause.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6153 OF 2022

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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 RESIDE IN CADDO PARISH, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo seeks to ensure that the broadest pool of potential candidates for public employment are invested in the community in which they live and with the government which employs them; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo seeks to also extend opportunities for advancement to persons who may reside in another parish but are best qualified for the open position.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Parish Personnel Policy be and is hereby amended to read as follows, to-wit:

Sec. 206. RESIDENCY

- (a) Effective immediately, employees permanently hired, appointed, or promoted to any of the following listed positions shall be residents of Caddo Parish within one year from the date of commencement of employment, appointment, or promotion and throughout the course of their employment with the Parish: Parish Administrator/CEO, Assistant Parish Administrator, Parish Attorney, Department Director, Commission Clerk.
- (b) As a condition of hiring, appointment, or promotion to the positions listed in

subsection (a), parish employees will be required to show proof of residency within the guidelines established by the Human Resources Department of the Parish Personnel Policy. Falsifying, materially misrepresenting, misleading proof of residency could be cause for disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

- (c) All external and internal employment applications for the positions listed in subsection (a) shall require a statement thereon indicating that residency is a required condition.
- (d) This requirement shall not apply to persons applying for the positions listed herein, if said persons are employed by Caddo Parish as of February 1, 2022.

ORDINANCES (For Introduction By Title)

- Ordinance No. 6155 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$5,000 to provide an additional appropriation for the Delta Upsilon Lambda Foundation, and otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6156 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$5,000 to provide an additional appropriation for the Dress for Success Shreveport-Bossier, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6157 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Public Works Fund and the Capital Outlay Fund in the amount of \$107,500 to provide an additional appropriation to install welcome signs on I-49, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6158 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$5,000 to provide an appropriation for Friends in Unity, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6159 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$10,000 to reduce the appropriation for Playaz and Playettes, Inc., and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6160 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund for the year 2022 to provide an appropriation of \$109,000 to provide Caddo Fire District No. 7 with a part-time employee, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6161 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation of up to \$30,000 for Red G Enterprises, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6162 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures 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
- Ordinance No. 6163 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for Volunteers for Youth Justice for truancy, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6164 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for Caddo Parish Juvenile Court, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6165 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund to provide an appropriation for ERAP Housing Quality Inspections, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6166 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund to roll over an existing 2021 appropriation for eviction mitigation into the 2022 Budget, and to

otherwise provide with respect thereto

- Ordinance No. 6167 of 2022, an ordinance repealing Section 38-4 of the Code of Ordinances regarding the Shreveport-Caddo 2030 Master Plan, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6168 of 2022, an ordinance repealing Ordinance 6071 of 2021 relative to establishment of a Parish Planning Commission, and otherwise providing with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6169 of 2022, an ordinance approving a cooperative endeavor agreement with Tim James, Inc. relative to construction of a privately owned tollway over the Red River pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 48:2037, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6170 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund for the year 2022 to provide an appropriation for relocation assistance, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6171 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an additional appropriation for Fit for Life Ministries, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6172 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund to provide appropriations for housing projects, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6173 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund and the Oil & Gas Fund to provide an additional appropriation for Urban Support, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

WORK SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Work Session Minutes January 3, 2022* be ratified. Motion carried by acclamation.

RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Resolution No. 1 of 2022, a resolution authorizing the Caddo Community Action Agency, Inc. to administer the Head Start Program for the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Epperson mentioned that there are a few Head Start Centers that are closed down due to COVID outbreaks.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 1 OF 2022

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CADDO COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, INC. TO ADMINISTER THE HEAD START PROGRAM FOR THE PARISH OF CADDO, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to obtain state and federal funds, where available, to benefit low and moderate income persons in the Parish of Caddo; and

WHEREAS, federal grants which are administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are available for the purpose of providing a Head Start Preschool Education Program to qualified parish governments; and

WHEREAS, the program provides a comprehensive program to children in Early Head Start ages 0-3 and Traditional Head Start ages 3-5 and their families; and

WHEREAS, this program consists of five components: education, health, parent

involvement, social services and transportation; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned program provides critical services by assisting children from low and moderate income families during their formative years; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Community Action Agency, Inc. has administered this program for the Caddo Parish Commission over the last forty-five (45) years; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is the appropriate agency to receive federal and/or state funding for the purpose of providing programs to support the indigent persons living with the Parish of Caddo.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize the Caddo Community Action Agency, Inc. to administer the Head Start program on behalf of the Parish of Caddo.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Laurance Guidry and/or his successor is hereby authorized to do all things necessary to implement, maintain, amend or review any documents associated with the Head Start Program from the effective date of this resolution through January 31, 2023.

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 the Resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Taliaferro**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Resolution No. 2 of 2022, a resolution approving the amended 2021 Budget and the proposed 2022 Budget of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Lab Commission, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Taliaferro explained that the Commission is a formal approval for the budget.

Mr. Johnson said that they are operating in the red. He wanted to know if the North LA Crime Lab would come back to the Parish for additional dollars if they keep operating in the red. Mr. Atkins agreed with Mr. Johnson's observation, but said that they did have some capital activities going on that was increasing their expenditures.

Dr. Wilson said that the Caddo Parish Commission does not provide funding for this agency. Mrs. Bryant said that she does not recall in the past where the Commission has funded the lab for any shortfalls. Dr. Wilson also pointed out that there are several other parishes who are a part of the crime; they just reside in Caddo.

Mr. Burrell is not sure why this organization is operating in the red. The Clerk of the Commission explained that the pandemic decreased their income. The writing of tickets, bonding, and court appearances have been sporadic and at times shut down in the past few years. He said that is what has caused a decrease in revenues the past few years. The Clerk also explained that the Crime Lab covers twenty-nine parishes.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if Caddo was the only parish who approves their budget. The Clerk of the Commission said that their budget needs to be adopted by fifteen of the twenty-nine parishes. Mr. Jackson then wanted to know if any of the parishes would be committed to any shortfalls. Attorney Bernstein explained that their funding is entirely by court costs that are assessed in certain criminal cases. He also explained that the Parish is not obligated to cover any losses.

Mr. Epperson requested that a representative from the Crime Lab be invited to a meeting to answer any of the Commissioners' questions.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know the reason this is a resolution, and not an ordinance. The Clerk explained that this is not our budget, but a passthrough. Mr. Jackson wanted to know Caddo Parish's relationship to this budget. Attorney Bernstein explained that the statute specifically says that the Commission shall prepare an annual budget which shall be approved by at least a majority of the governing authorities of the parishes which the Commission serves.

At this time, Mr. Taliaferro's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins and Epperson (2). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 2 OF 2022

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AMENDED 2021 AND PROPOSED 2022 BUDGETS OF THE NORTH LOUISIANA CRIMINALISTICS LABORATORY COMMISSION AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened this 6th day of January, 2022, that it hereby approves the amended 2021 and proposed 2022 budgets of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission, as presented.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution, or 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 become effective immediately.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Resolution No. 3 of 2022, a resolution requesting Congress to take such action as are necessary to eliminate provisions of federal law which require veterans to pay taxes on their social security benefits, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Epperson explained that this is so veterans would not have to pay taxes on their social security benefits.

Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to englobo and adopt the following resolutions:*

- *Resolution No. 3 of 2022, a resolution requesting Congress to take such action as are necessary to eliminate provisions of federal law which require veterans to pay taxes on their social security benefits, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 4 of 2022, a resolution supporting and requesting a U.S. postage stamp be named in honor of the late Colonel Steven dePyssler, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 5 of 2022, a resolution expressing support for the Lofts at 114 Texas Project, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 7 of 2022, a resolution authorizing the Parish Administrator to retain special legal counsel and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 8 of 2022, a resolution replacing Resolution No. 116 of 2011 relative to adoption of a master plan for Caddo Parish, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

Mr. Jackson invited Mr. Edward Taylor to answer any questions regarding Resolution No. 5. Mr. Edward Taylor, Fairfield Management, explained that this property is concerning the building that is connected to Chicago and Blind Tiger. He said that the building has a crumbling wall and is the old Humphrey's. Mr. Taylor also explained that they have been working with the property owner to redevelop it and rehab it.

Mr. Atkins appreciates them taking this building on and doing it with local people, local investors, and local builders.

Mr. Jackson said that the Housing Corporation and the Parish will need to do a cooperative endeavor agreement supporting this project. He explained that the \$1.5M will flow through the Parish to the developers to be able to complete this project. Mr. Jackson also said that there might be an ask for a pilot, but that would be brought to the Industrial Development Board.

Mrs. Gage-Watts spoke on Resolution No. 8. She believes that it is advantageous to have a relationship with the MPC. She also believes that this resolution is divisive.

Mr. Hopkins also spoke about Resolution No. 8. He said that this resolution is to repeal the Master Plan. He also explained that it is a two-tiered deal where the Commission has to do a resolution, then an ordinance. Act 294 separated the MPC from the unincorporated areas of the Parish. The 2030

Great Expectations is still on the books, but it is more of an urban written Master Plan, and not representative of the rural areas of the Parish. Mr. Hopkins also said that if this is done away with, the Parish can write its own comprehensive plan. He also believes that the Great Expectations Master Plan “works great for the City, but not for the rural parts of the Parish”.

Mr. Epperson wanted to know if this would affect the urban areas as well. Attorney Bernstein said that it would only repeal the Master Plan in the unincorporated areas of the Parish because the City also adopted the Master Plan, independently.

Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to englobo and adopt the following resolutions:*

- *Resolution No. 3 of 2022, a resolution requesting Congress to take such action as are necessary to eliminate provisions of federal law which require veterans to pay taxes on their social security benefits, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 4 of 2022, a resolution supporting and requesting a U.S. postage stamp be named in honor of the late Colonel Steven dePyssler, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 5 of 2022, a resolution expressing support for the Lofts at 114 Texas Project, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

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

RESOLUTION NO. 3 OF 2022

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

RESOLUTION REQUESTING CONGRESS TO TAKE SUCH ACTIONS AS ARE NECESSARY TO ELIMINATE PROVISIONS OF FEDERAL LAW WHICH REQUIRE VETERANS TO PAY TAXES ON THEIR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, United States Veterans have worked hard to secure the rights and freedoms of United States Citizens both in war and during times of peace; and

WHEREAS, many veterans have served time in the military and then transitioned to civilian work and served until their retirement; and

WHEREAS, taxing the Social Security Benefits of veterans results in an unfair pecuniary hardship to those who have risked life and limb to protect the rights and freedoms of our citizenry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby request the United States Congress to eliminate federal taxation of veterans' Social Security benefits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

BE IT RUTHER 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 of this resolution 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 4 OF 2022

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND REQUESTING A U.S. POSTAGE STAMP BE NAMED IN HONOR OF THE LATE COLONEL STEVEN DEPYSSLER, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT

THERETO.

WHEREAS, Colonel Steven dePyssler served in uniform for 38 years and as an unpaid volunteer for another 41 years; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Steven dePyssler is believed to be the only known American to have served in World War II, the Korean War, the French Indo-China War, the Bay of Pigs Invasion and the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Caddo Parish Commission to see that Colonel dePyssler receives proper acknowledgement in American History, for the service he provided to Caddo Parish, the State of Louisiana and the United States of America.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Postal Service has established a Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to allow submission of persons and subjects to be honored by the U.S. Postal Service; and

WHEREAS, Colonel de Pyssler meets the selection criteria as a subject for postage stamp, particularly as a person that had significant impact on American history, culture or environment, and as someone who made extraordinary and enduring contributions to American society.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby submit Colonel Steven dePyssler for consideration as the subject of a U.S. Postal Stamp.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this item shall be sent to both The U.S. Postal Service and the members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC).

BE IT RUTHER 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 of this resolution 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 5 OF 2022

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE LOFTS AT 114 TEXAS PROJECT, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, 114 Texas Street LLC has acquired the property at 114 Texas Street; and

WHEREAS, that property has been a long-standing eyesore adjacent to one of the gateways into downtown Shreveport;

WHEREAS, 114 Texas Street LLC has secured the commitment of funding in the amount of \$10 million for construction of lofts through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program with the Louisiana Housing Corporation;

WHEREAS, 114 Texas Street LLC is a minority owned business seeking to put the property back into commerce as a mixed use development in 2022; and

WHEREAS, that development will generate both temporary construction jobs and permanent business jobs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby express its support for the Lofts at 114 Texas project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 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. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Resolution No. 7 of 2022, a resolution authorizing the Parish Administrator to retain special legal counsel and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Taliaferro (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 7 OF 2022

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO RETAIN SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish has undertaken the formation of two TIF districts in 2021; and WHEREAS David Wolf has spent many uncompensated hours advising the Parish in these matters; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolf is a highly competent and experienced attorney whose practice is concentrated in the field of economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Parish Attorney's Office is requesting that the Commission appoint outside counsel familiar with matters related to the formation and operation of TIF districts and other matters so accompanying; and

WHEREAS, the Parish Attorney has recommended to the Commission that it would be in the best interest of Caddo Parish for it to retain the services of David Wolf with the firm of Adams & Reese as Special Counsel to provide advice and counsel to the Commission as it monitors activity related to the formation and operation of these TIF districts; and

WHEREAS, the Commission does hereby concur the Parish Attorney's recommendation to retain David Wolf and the firm of Adams and Reese in the aforesaid matter;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session concerned that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize the Parish Administrator or his designee to retain a local attorney on behalf of Caddo Parish to establish the above-referenced TIF districts; if a local attorney is not obtained, the Parish Administrator or his designee is authorized to obtain Mr. David Wolf the firm of Adams & Reese at an hourly rate not to exceed \$580.00 for Mr. Wolf and \$330.00 for attorneys with less than ten years of experience, with other terms of the engagement, including that local counsel be co- counsel in this matter, and authorize a retainer agreement to be negotiated between the Parish Attorney and Mr. Wolf.

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 provision of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Resolution No. 8 of 2022, a resolution replacing Resolution No. 116 of 2011 relative to adoption of a master plan for Caddo Parish, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Hopkins explained again that Act 294 separated the Caddo Commission from the MPC and restricts the Master Plan to areas inside the City of Shreveport. This resolution will repeal the Master Plan for the unincorporated areas and allow the Commission to start the process to draft a comprehensive plan that is more suitable for the unincorporated areas of the Parish.

Mr. Jackson said that he is mindful of the concerns resonated from the citizens in the rural areas, but citizens in the urban areas will also be affected by this. He gave an example of homes built on the edges of the City who want the protections of zoning. Mr. Jackson advised the Commission to proceed with caution on this matter. He said that there has to be something in place for these unique areas.

Mr. Epperson received several emails relative to this issue. He said that there were several public meetings with regards to the Master Plan in 2011. He also gave an example of Annie Lewis Drive and Santa Monica where he can spread his legs thirty-six inches apart and be halfway in the City and the other half in the Parish. He said that property values will be affected, and he is not comfortable with this.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know the reason for both the resolution and the ordinance. Attorney Bernstein explained that the Master Plan was adopted by both a resolution and ordinance. To completely sever the Parish from the Master Plan, the resolution and the ordinance will both need to be repealed.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that the Master Plan is for both Shreveport and Caddo. You cannot take Shreveport out of Caddo, he said. Mr. Johnson also stated that the Master Plan may need to be revised.

Mr. Burrell wants to know how this will affect the urban Commissioners if the Master Plan is eliminated. He said that it seems the problem is the UDC, and the MPC Director suggested setting up a rural UDC. I'm not clean on why we have to reinvent the wheel, just take what we have and modify it to fit the rural area, he said.

Mr. Hopkins explained that Act 294 states that the Master Plan is inside the City of Shreveport. He also said that the urban Commissioners will have representation in that aspect. Mr. Hopkins also explained that the needs for the rural area are different from the needs of the urban areas. He also said that the rural citizens wanted both the UDC and Master Plan eliminated.

Mr. Burrell reiterated that Director Clark presented the rural citizens with a modified version of the UDC that was more suitable for rural areas, but they did not want that either. Mr. Clark said that the MPC has studied the situations in the unincorporated areas of the Parish and determined that there is some blame with what the Caddo Parish Commission adopted and the MPC Board recommended. They have been working on a document that is more rural in character to amend the Caddo Parish Unified Development to reflect conditions that exist in the Parish. Mr. Clark also explained that the MPC has been in contact with planners all over the region with regards to rural codes and rural living. Rural codes and rural living is rural code and rural living regardless to where you are, he said. The Master Plan blends the connection between the City of Shreveport and the Parish of Caddo. This is crucial, he said, you should want development to be consistent and flow between the two boundaries.

Mr. Atkins pointed out that this issue deals with the Master Plan, not the UDC. He asked to stay germane to the discussion. Mr. Burrell said that the UDC is where the "heartburn came in".

Substitute motion by Mrs. Gage-Watts, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Resolution No. 8 of 2022, a resolution replacing Resolution No. 116 of 2011 relative to adoption of a master plan for Caddo Parish, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be postponed.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that there is still uncertainty on both sides of this issues. She asked that this be vetted further.

Mr. Hopkins asked that this be postponed to the February 3 Regular Session. Mrs. Gage-Watts agreed.

Mr. Jackson requested that Administration to get out into the Parish and hear the citizens' thoughts on repealing the Master Plan. He said that he has only heard from District 1 constituency, but would like to hear from the rest of the Parish.

It appears that this is not driven by your ordinary citizens, Mr. Epperson said, it is some kind of organization coming out spreading a lot of misinformation. He also said that he has not received a single complaint from his constituents with regards to this issue.

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

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to appoint Sgt. Gary Bailey to the Caddo Parish Animal Services Board (law enforcement representative) to fill the unexpired term of Dep. Jessica Anderson (term to expire January 1, 2026)* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Taliaferro (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

The Commission then moved onto the next New Business item, *Discuss Camera Doorbell Crime Reduction Program for Caddo*. It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that this item be removed from the agenda. No vote needed since they are the authors of the discussion item.*

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Updated demographic information from Data Center

Dr. Wilson provided an updated demographic document showing all of the ethnicities in

Caddo Parish.

- Tim James, Inc.

Dr. Wilson said that the proposed roadway connecting 3132 to Bossier Parish is called the Red River Expressway. He introduced Attorney William Bradford to the Commission.

Attorney Bradford explained that they will be presenting at the Long Range Planning Committee tomorrow. Tim James, Inc. has proposed an eight-mile roadway that will traverse between Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish effectively connecting the end of 3132 at Flournoy Lucas to Hwy 171 in Bossier by Parkway. State law requires that the parishes enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the parishes that outline the ability of the developer to construct the roadway, maintain the roadway, and set and fix tolls. Attorney Bradford pointed out that the only place where a citizen would pay a toll is when they cross the bridge; the other parts of the roadway would be free for use. He said that the roadways would be new construction funded by private dollars, and it would connect two of the largest growing economic corridors in Caddo and Bossier Parish. The roadway is planned to be constructed by 2026. Bossier Parish has already given approval, and they are working with the City of Shreveport to secure some right-of-ways. They have met with several homeowner associations along the roadway, as well as the landowners. They provided options on how they would manage visual and noise pollution that would occur because of the roadway. Attorney Bradford also mentioned that they have the support from LADOTD and the Port. The cost of the project is between \$80M-\$100M, and is an investment by a private developer. Attorney Bradford also explained that they've reached a fifteen-year maintenance agreement to maintain the roadway, and the usable life of this would be well in excess of an ordinary roadway. They are not asking the Parish at this time to use any of its real dollars. Attorney Bradford also explained that this is the last step before they can go into development in earnest.

Tim James, Jr. also mentioned that the roadway they are asking the Parish to take in is roughly two miles.

Mr. Epperson wanted to know what prompted Tim James, Inc. to take on this project. Mr. James said they are headquartered in Alabama, and this is the family business. He also explained that his father built a successful private toll bridge in Alabama. They look all over the southeast for underserved infrastructure. He said that they discovered this project by studying maps.

Mr. Epperson requested that Administration provide maps of the proposed eight-mile stretch. Attorney Bradford said that he can forward updated maps to the Commissioners. Mr. Epperson also asked that the names of the property owners be listed on that map. Mr. Jackson also requested a copy of this map, as well as a copy of the cooperative endeavor agreement.

Mr. Jackson said that he would like to pursue Ford Street for the right-sizing program. He also explained that the traffic count for this street is 6,000 cars. He believes that there needs to be quality infrastructure throughout Caddo Parish. Mr. Jackson also pointed out that this road is named after Mr. Carl Pierson and was passed by the Caddo Parish Commission. He asked that the Clerk's Office provide that resolution to the Commissioners. Mr. Jackson also requested that a resolution be drafted to support Ford Street for the right-sizing program. Dr. Wilson acknowledged Mr. Jackson's request, but also mentioned that there are obstacles with Ford Street. He said that the issues they had with it four years ago still exist today. Dr. Wilson said that the utilities under the road need to be repaired first by the City of Shreveport.

Mr. Epperson requested that Mr. James email him at his caddo.org email address.

Mr. Atkins thanked Mr. James and Attorney Bradford for attending today's meeting and looks forward to working on this project.

- Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Dr. Wilson said that they were expecting to receive information regarding the program yesterday, but have yet to receive it.

COMMUNIQUES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Hopkins said that in 2020, a proposed business moved to the Hwy 2 and I-49 interchange. At that time, there was a request to look at options to finance it. One of the ideas was a TIF district. Mr. Hopkins felt it was a good idea to put all of the I-49 interchanges from Hwy 173 North to the Arkansas line in this TIF. Since then, property owners have contacted him stating that they do not want to be a part of the TIF. He said that there were concerns regarding property taxes. Mr. Hopkins said that he will be bringing down that TIF district to include only the property that the proposed business is looking at and any other property related to that interchange.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked the members of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Juvenile Services.

She also reminded everyone to stay safe, consider vaccinations and boosters, wear masks, and practice social distancing. She also cautioned everyone to postpone large gatherings. Testing and vaccinations are available at the LA State Fairgrounds Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Vaccines and boosters are also available at LSU Ochsner.

Lastly, Mrs. Gage-Watts talked about the riot at the U.S. Capitol that happened a year ago today. She said that she will never forget this day.

- Mr. Epperson said that there are two Head Start Centers that are fully closed as well as many classrooms. He said that there were numerous children and staff that were affected by COVID.

He also talked about Master Sgt. Tony T. Williams, who was one of the first student Commissioners for the day. Master Sgt. Williams plans to retire and return to Caddo Parish.

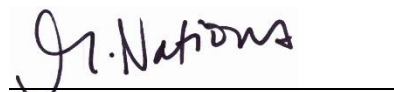
Mr. Epperson then recognized January 6th as the one-year anniversary of one of the worst atrocities that happened on American soil. It was appalling, unpatriotic, un-American, and it was tyranny against our sovereign nation, he said.

- Mr. Jackson said that Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is coming up. He encouraged all to attend events in his honor.

Mr. Jackson also talked about the January 6 attack on the Capitol. He said that the lies, taunting, and teaser led to the attack. He commended Senator Bill Cassidy who said that we, as leaders, should call out rhetoric and bigotry as we see it. He wants to ensure that this community and parish does not have its own version of the January 6 attack.

- Mr. Burrell said that two situations that impacted his life quite a bit. One being the terrorist attack on 9/11 and the second being the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6. He said that he felt empty and fearful that "our country that was under attack again from our own people". We are all supposed to be a part of the United States of America, he said.

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 6:38 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk