

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 31ST DAY OF AUGUST, 2020

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., via Zoom teleconference, with Mr. Chavez, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). ABSENT: (0).

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Angie White gave the following comment:

Good afternoon everyone. I'm Angie White, Executive Vice President of the North Louisiana Economic Partnership. I'm speaking today on behalf of agenda item 11.4, regarding appropriation for child care centers. Since the pandemic began, I, specifically among our staff, have been very focused on the child care industry and its instability during the pandemic. Because, you know, our focus is economic in north Louisiana and right now the lack of adequate childcare capacity is really going to be inhibiting our ability to recover-for our economy to recover from the pandemic. I know there are many variables at play here but we didn't have sufficient child care before the pandemic that situation has only been exacerbated. We have to also be very mindful that these child care centers are themselves small business. And, so, just like all other small business they have been impacted financially because of the increased costs due to the PPE that's required of them, all kinds of sanitation requirements placed on them now that were not there before. It's requiring them to have staff doing extra work or potentially having to hire additional staff. At a time when their capacity is limited by the state, which is mandating what they are based on what the CDC guidelines are. So they have much smaller pod sizes that they can allow at the moment. And that means less tuition would be coming to them. They also have less students enrolling because of concerns of parents about their children being around lots of other individuals outside the family. So, there are many reason why it is very important that we, as a state and Caddo parish specifically, try to support businesses within this industry. Because if we lose them, I'm not really sure how we'll replace them and not having them in place is going to make economic recovery that much harder for our community. We've provided you Tim Magner from the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce and I've provided a letter to you, it should be in your packet. It gives a lot of information about surveys that have gone out from various institutions. We sent a survey to businesses in north Louisiana in April and 43% of the businesses responding said that a lack of child care would prevent their employees from coming to work. So, this is something that we are hearing from our businesses it's not just from state businesses or nationally this is businesses in north la. So we hope that you will very seriously consider this request and vote in favor of it. And I'll go ahead and wrap up and pass the floor to Tim Magner if you would like to add anything to that. Thank you very much.

Tim Magner gave the following comment:

Tim Magner with Greater Shreveport COC, just wanted to reiterate a number of things that Angie said and also recognize that this is really a cyclical problem. Because as folks are struggling about where to place their children it means its difficult for them to return to work at the same time as employers need employees to return to work, as Angie pointed out the number of employers who are reporting that their employees are struggling with child care means that we have a sort of a catch-22. And being able to provide additional resources to our child care centers do a couple of things. First of all it helps them as small businesses be able to stay open through access to funding to support the additional costs or PPE. It can help support the impact of lower attendance due to the restrictions at the governmental level as well as the parents who are electing to keep their children at home. And so it helps to preserve them as businesses so that when, lord willing, we're back in normal operations those businesses continued to survive. At the same time it enables individuals, parents in particular, to go to work and to be able to staff the businesses many of them are frontline workers. Many of them with young children, are in critical locations or critical occupations where absence of child care really has that sort of double whammy effect so. Again we encourage you to allocate the resources that have been proposed as a means of really helping to support small businesses but also helping to keep the larger economy going through access to child care for employees around our region. Thank you.

Nancy Alexander gave the following comment:

I appreciate you allowing me to speak today. I'm with NSU Childhood Family Network, we're a part of the Gillespie College of Education at Northwestern, but we're based right here in Shreveport. I've worked with the early childhood field since 1999. And I can tell you that I have not seen centers struggling as much as they are now. The economic impact that covid has brought on them and not Laura has made it even worse. We're seeing centers that have closed. Some closed temporarily and will be reopening but they are, as mentioned earlier, they are serving fewer children. And as time has gone by during these years they're serving younger children. While you may not realize it, the younger the children the more costly it is to provide care. If you're paying for child care for infants or toddlers you

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probably realize that. But the cost for the younger children is so much greater but it's also much more important as we look at the school readiness stats for our area. And as we look at the importance of early childhood brain development. So there's two reasons we need this. We need to keep our early learning centers operating in spite of the pandemic, not only because of the economic issue, but also because of the educational issue. There's plenty of evidence that children who are in good early childhood programs do better when they start school and that we actually save money in less remedial education and so on. So, I know you probably have too much to do to listen to all the statistics today, but we have worked with the centers for many, many years. All money that we operate with, which is primarily grants and contracts and self-generated fees for services, all funds go through the Northwestern business office. So there's plenty of oversight. And whether it's us or some other source we really want to see these funds going to the center, so we can keep operating and provide the best that they can do for our area. And that concludes my comments. But I'll be available for questions if anyone has any questions.

Jack Michaels called in with the following comment:

Well Um I've been trying for ever since go to the office to try to get some help for abused patients at LSU. If you look at chance.org, there's a petition that was noted about 8 years ago about the abuse of patients and how the media would do anything about it and how the authorities went. Anyways, you can look that up yourself. Also, like I've been trying to get help. So I've tried going to the Sherriff's department and I got communication documentary. Click on Facebook and then see them or just ask me and I'll direct you to a YouTube channel that has all this stuff documented. The sheriff won't help. He just looks at messages and doesn't do anything about the abuse. There's specifically torture of elderly one by UPD officer Gabe. He's like 62, African-American, 260 pounds um real sick stuff. But I polygraph to witnessing that. But um I also have other people that are systems and they want help for um being abused because attention to LSU you can google review. And you can kind of uh kind of accept that if you don't have to go through with the uh staff at LSU you know. And that was like the LSU that had this Oschner's had just you can call a number. Well you call that number you give them your name and they don't help you. Know that Oschner's health systems blocks communications on Facebook. They uh hide the public outcry about abused patient casualties. Say how they tries on twitter. Um Perkins, Mayor Perkins, blocks victims who grieve on Facebook. Keith Hanson the technology director, we try to reach out to him. He blocks victims. The ACLU board director Kalista or something like that she has like [incoherent] on Twitter she blocks victims trying to get help. It's a constitutional right for you to position the governor [incoherent] grievances. And he also says about the constitution subject to torture. Especially at a hospital you know that's just wrong. So um the Crystal Jackson who works at the Administration's office. She's on record telling uh somebody trying to get help for patient abuse and torture. She's on a record threatening arrest. It's you know to the person trying to get help. That's on record. Casey brown another person that works with the administration is on record saying you know well we bought he who just because we you know he said that the administration brought for just because you know they don't like what they say or it's not complimenting. They answer that's a government forum. And freedom of speech it's a constitution. It's constitutionally protected. I am an American. I am not like a second class citizen or some sort of immigrant.

Jesse Gilmore submitted the following comment:

Dear Caddo Parish, The November 2020 elections are just around the corner! Caddo Parish has an opportunity to safely turn out more voters if there is a secondary early voting location in Shreveport in time for the November and December 2020 elections. We encourage you to add an early voting location by voting YES on Agenda 7.V -Request The Establishment Of An Early Voting Site At 3015 Greenwood Road Shreveport, LA 71109.

Florasteen Kelly submitted the following comment:

Dear Caddo Parish, We ask that you help make voting safer and more accessible for all Caddo Parish residents and vote in favor of Agenda Item 7.V that would establish an early voting site at 3015 Greenwood Road Shreveport, LA 71109.

Jamie Washington submitted the following comment:

Concerning early voting sites. My number is (318) 773-2766.

David Strahan submitted the following comment:

Two issues to discuss with Board: 1. Jacob Gipson, 201 Gray Street, Belcher, La. (lives directly behind me) is out of compliance with Caddo Parish Ordinance 5580, Section 8.37, Owner's Responsibilities: Section (d.8) It shall be unlawful for any occupant or owner of a dwelling to keep or allow to be kept outdoors on the premises of any dwelling more than four dogs... January 6, 2020: 10 dogs and 9 puppies in pens on back fence separately our property. January 8, 2020: reported to Animal Control with pictures depicting number of dogs and poor sanitation...stench was horrible (Animal Control officer unable to find residence) March 24, 2020: dogs were moved from our back fence 124 ft to the side of his property August 28, 2020 (12 dogs) At no time during this 8-month period (January through August) were there less than 8-12 dogs. Numerous reports were made to Animal Control regarding smell and barking during this period. I have only listed a few here-I did not know at the time that I would be needing a

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detailed account. Section (i.1.f.1) Cleanliness All dog pens shall be hosed down, thoroughly cleaned and disinfected as often as needed and in no case less than once a day. January 23, 2020 (dirty pens, offensive smell throughout town). Again, went to Animal Control with documentation of poor living conditions of dogs and furnished

the address and gave directions to the residence. July 6, 2020: Sent Dallas (Animal Control) picture of excrement piled under pens and asked the question Is that acceptable?? July 10, 2020: 5 days since pens cleaned, 9 dogs (was told by Mims (Animal Control)) that now it's not a barking issue, it's a sanitation issue: he stated to "please remove me from this text group." Shortly thereafter, Dallas (with Animal Control) inspected pens and noted that excrement was washed out of pens onto the ground; not cleaned up Currently: Pens are 18 inches above ground with wood slats, slurry of malodorous feces and urine standing below the pens. Section Sec. 8-38. -Nuisance; owner to maintain clean premises. June 19, 2020-Dogs barked incessantly August 27, 2020-Dogs barked from 8pm to 2am. Numerous reports were made to Animal Control and the Sheriff's Department on the conditions of the pens (and odor) and on the barking of the dogs. At the time, I did not know that I should be keeping a detailed report on each incidence. Clearly, Mr. Gibson is not in compliance. Why is this taking so long? 2. Animal Control does not appear to enforce ordinance. Numerous calls from the residents of Belcher to Animal Control and law enforcement with complaints of smell and barking: the situation remains basically unchanged. January 8, 2020: presented documented proof of the number of animals and the sanitation issue to Animal Control. January 23, 2020: investigator talked to Mr. Gibson and documented 19 dogs and malodorous, neglected pens. January 31, 2020: investigator followed up with Mr. Gibson and documented the same situation. February 10, 2020: pens were rinsed out and hay was placed on the excrement and lime on top of the hay. February 11, 2020: Calvin Samuels and Mr. Clark (Animal Control Assistant Director and Director) wrote Mr. Gibson a ticket for nuisance and hygiene on dogs-there were still 19 dogs and no permit. March 14, 2020: Contacted Todd Hopkins with documentation of dogs, pens, and lack of enforcement with Animal Control. Mr. Hopkins forwarded to Assistant Director of Animal Services. March 14, 2020: Called Woody Wilson. No response; left voicemail. March 16, 2020: I was told that there was a meeting at Animal Control regarding the dogs. I met Mr. Clark and Calvin Samuels in the parking lot after the meeting and was told that Mr. Clark wants to hold off until after COVID 19 moves out, providing they (Animal Control) decide to seize the dogs. Extensive investigation by Officer Washington had been conducted. I expressed my concerns that the conditions of the dogs were unchanged, that they were a nuisance with barking, and that Animal Control seems to be powerless. I was told that they are following a process. March 24, 2020: Moved pens 124 feet. Still in Village limits. July 10, 2020: Sent Woody Wilson and email. He said that he would get with Animal Control. No enforcement. July 13, 2020: Same story August 13, 2020: Same story. August 20, 2020: Todd Hopkins called and said that he spoke to Woody Wilson and that everything would be done by the book.... permits included. He suggested I present this information to the Caddo Commissioners for resolution. As of this time, the situation is essentially unchanged. 8-12 dogs in poorly maintained pens. Wood slats for floors, squirted off with a water hose daily, resulting in a malodorous slurry of feces and urine under the pens. Lime is sprinkled around occasionally. Numerous phone calls from me and other citizens of Belcher to Animal Control and the Sheriff Department without results. (Sheriff Department states it is an Animal Control problem). Animal Control has been out here several times without results. Why are 8-12 dogs still in pens in poor condition and barking? Why is he not in compliance? This issue has been going on for nine months. As an Alderman of Belcher, I have tried to follow protocol. I do not understand WHY the ordinance is not enforced. Why has this gone to the Caddo Commissioners? Please advise me on what steps I should take next. Thanks, David Strahan 318-210-6576

#### **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; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor, has further extended that declaration via Proclamations Number 96 JBE 2020 and Number 97 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.

Date: August 28, 2020

/s/Mario Chavez, President

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Update on Storm Damage—Hurricane Laura

Dr. Wilson said that the Veterans Center on Creswell was damaged. The roof was torn off. Mr. Bob Petrus has been relocated to the old regional lab on Vine Street. The Adult Drug Court will be relocated to 1704 North Market.

- Juvenile Detention Center

He also said that Caddo is assisting Calcasieu Parish. Last Thursday, twenty-three of their juveniles were transported and have been housed at the Caddo Parish Juvenile Detention Center's gym. He said that there is a total of forty-three kids at the JDC.

He also announced that Director Clay Walker will be taking a leave of absence to run for judgeship. Ms. Muriel Burns will come out of retirement to serve in that position until the outcome of the election.

- Caddo Animal Services & Mosquito Control

Dr. Wilson also mentioned that there are four cases of West Nile in the State of Louisiana with two being in Caddo Parish.

He also said that a bat with rabies recently bit a citizen.

Dr. Wilson also talked about the citizens comment that was submitted regarding the dogs in Belcher. The owner of the dogs has poured a concrete slab and is installing a sewer line for the kennels. Dr. Wilson said that the owner is in compliance and is going above and beyond. Mr. Chavez wanted to know if this owner is a business or private owner. Dr. Wilson said that he is a private citizen.

- Robert Glass—Public Works Director retiring

Dr. Wilson announced that Mr. Glass will be retiring this Friday after 25 years of service to the Parish. He also said that Mr. Glass has been the architect behind all of the Parish's oil and gas efforts.

Dr. Wilson wished Mr. Glass the best in his future endeavors.

- Dale Sibley, Registrar of Voters

Dr. Wilson stated that Mr. Dale Sibley, Registrar of Voters, is on the line.

Mr. Atkins asked if the two libraries listed on the agenda would be fully equipped for an additional early voting site. Mr. Sibley said that his office has not been officially approached for any potential early voting sites. He also said that if an additional early voting site is selected, then they would need to move very quickly. Mr. Sibley mentioned that looking at an additional early voting site has not been a priority for his office.

Mr. Burrell congratulated Mr. Sibley on his appointment as Registrar. He also pointed out that the Greenwood Road and Oil City locations both have secured lines because they are state buildings. He wanted to know if the libraries have secured lines. Mr. Sibley stated that they do not, so the state would have to run their secured lines. Mr. Burrell asked for a timeline on how quickly those lines could be installed. Mr. Sibley does not have a timeline on it because this has not been done before. He said that the Secretary of State's Office would have to come out and install those lines.

Dr. Wilson pointed out that Bossier Parish utilizes one of their libraries as an early voting site, but he does not know how quickly it can be done. Mr. Sibley also mentioned that he would need to submit a plan to the Secretary of State's Office on the additional site. He would like ample amount of time to be to research and submit that plan. Mr. Sibley also pointed out that early voting is scheduled to start October 20, so everything would need to be in place by October 1.

Mr. Chavez asked what is needed from the Secretary of State's Office to accomplish an early voting site. Mr. Sibley explained that the Secretary of State's Office and the Registrar's Office would get together to do a physical evaluation of the site. There are certain criteria that the site must meet in terms of the layout and security. Mr. Sibley reiterated that there are several unknowns since this has not been done in Caddo Parish before.

Mrs. Gage-Watts agreed that an additional early voting site is needed. She asked if a city could early vote by the internet. Mr. Sibley said that a citizen can go through the Secretary of State's Office at [sos.la.gov](http://sos.la.gov) to get an application for registration for absentee or mail-in voting. She then wanted to

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know what criteria a citizen has to meet in order to receive an absentee ballot. Mr. Sibley said that includes people who will be out of the Parish during the election and early voting, people who are hospitalized, people who are incarcerated, but have not been convicted, etc.

Mr. Hopkins asked for Mr. Sibley's opinion regarding utilizing state buildings versus libraries. Mr. Sibley said that an advantage would be that the state buildings already have lines connecting to Baton Rouge. He also mentioned that the question that needs to be answered is whether the motivation is geographical or population based. He would like an ample amount of time to research and gather the data for the possible locations to answer some of these questions.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know how Bossier Parish is allowed an additional site, but Caddo does not have one. Mr. Sibley explained that all of the parishes are allowed at least on additional site.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if a person has COVID, but is not hospitalized, if they are required to vote in-person. Mr. Sibley said that is what is being discussed right now.

- Dr. Wilson's response to Commissioners' requests

Mr. Epperson asked the Mr. Michael Corbin be invited to Thursday's Regular Session under his Administrator Report.

Mr. Burrell said that there is a survey regarding broadband service. He asked that Dr. Wilson contact Mr. Ellis to provide an update at Thursday's Regular Session.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Resolution No. 63 of 2020, a resolution to study establishing a youth education program to interrupt the cycle of youth violence, to invite the Caddo Parish School Board and local hospitals to participate, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that the youth has experienced trauma due to gun violence. She said that citizens are afraid to go to the store or sit in their living rooms due to fear of being riddled with bullets. She believes that coordinating efforts between hospital facilities and Caddo Parish will be a method of educating the realities of major trauma and hopefully deter those rescued from this cycle of violence.

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).

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance No. 5976 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund for the year 2020 to provide an appropriation for a mental health hotline and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

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

- *Ordinance No. 5976 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund for the year 2020 to provide an appropriation for a mental health hotline and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5977 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund for they yea 2020 to provide an appropriation for Providence House Emergency Rental Assistance Program and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5978 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the General Fund for the year 2020 to provide an appropriation for the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Epperson would like to be registered as a NAY vote on Ordinance No. 5978. Mr. Chavez advised that a Commissioner cannot register a separate vote on an item if the items are englobed.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to englobe and move the*

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following ordinances to Thursday's agenda:

- *Ordinance No. 5976 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund for the year 2020 to provide an appropriation for a mental health hotline and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5977 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund for they yea 2020 to provide an appropriation for Providence House Emergency Rental Assistance Program and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Taliaferro wanted a breakdown of the funding for the mental health hotline.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know the relevance of these ordinances. The Clerk of the Commission explained that the emergency ordinances for these expire after 30 days. He further explained that these are just permanent versions of the ordinances, in case they take longer than 30 days.

At this time, Mr. Burrell'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. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance No. 5978 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the General Fund for the year 2020 to provide an appropriation for the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Chavez said that the intent of this ordinance is to provide a touchless scenario for businesses to do business with the MPC.

Mr. Johnson said that he will be voting against this ordinance. He feels that this could be done with less money. He also said that some of the Commissioners would like to achieve a touchless scenario for the MPC, but are pushing to go back to the Chambers when the Parish's business could be done via Zoom. Mr. Burrell agreed that this is contradictory, but does not want to penalize the businesses. Mr. Epperson agreed that this could be done in-house.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Ordinance No. 5979 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund for the year 2020 to provide an appropriation for childcare centers for COVID-19 related expenditures and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Young said that the NLEP was communicating that this economy needs more childcare establishments to be up and running in order for people to get back to work. He said that this ordinance seems to meet a critical and ongoing need.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if this would be reimbursable via the CARES Act. Mrs. Bryant said that based on the description, this could be reimbursable via CARES Act. She also reminded the Commissioners that CARES Act is not guaranteed, but based on the funding that is available at the time of consideration. She also said that there are other entities who have submitted for CARES Act funding.

Mr. Young wanted to know how much CARES Act funding is left for the Parish. Mrs. Bryant said that there is about \$8M, but other government entities are submitting requests that is well above the amount left. She reiterated that the reimbursement is not guaranteed.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if this included all childcare centers. Ms. Alexander said that this would service the largest numbers of childcare subsidies, with the lower income programs being the priority.

Mr. Johnson said that some of the daycares have schools attached to them. He wanted to know if those would be included. Ms. Alexander said that the funds would go to the childcare part.

Mr. Johnson asked that a list be provided to the Commissioners of all of the daycares receiving this funding. Ms. Alexander said that it would be an application process for all type three childcare centers.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know the increase in costs these daycares are incurring due to COVID. Ms. Alexander said that it is about a 50% increase due to the rations and the number of children in each group. The cost per child has increased significantly.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know why hasn't there been more emphasis on childcare prior to COVID. Mr. Magner said that they have been very active in early childhood education in the past several years, particularly around the early childhood tax credit. He continued and said that he has worked with the US Chamber, as well as with the Louisiana Institute for Children, advocating for additional childcare dollars throughout the state, as well as looking at mechanisms that can be used locally. He further stated that they are seeing significant numbers of parents who had access to childcare, no longer have it. In addition, the childcare infrastructure that is in place is struggling financially, he said. Mr. Magner continued and said that there is need to keep the doors open for the childcare centers, in particular, ages 0-3 years old.

Mr. Burrell then wanted to know if the funding should come from the government or the private sector. Mr. Magner said that there is a combination of factors given the fact that many businesses themselves are struggling irrespective of the childcare concerns. He also mentioned that many employers are beginning to look at things to support family friendly policies, i.e. increasing the availability to work from home, flexible schedules, etc. He also said that there has been discussion regarding the need to develop a hybrid braided funding solution that takes advantage of state and federal dollars that are available. This is an infrastructure question; it is not really a point source or individual conversation, Mr. Magner explained. He said that it is a community conversation on how we weave together the necessary resources that support families, children, businesses, and the childcare centers.

Mr. Burrell believes that this is a necessity for the welfare of this community.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know what the funding was for. Ms. Alexander explained that due to the COVID mandates, the centers cannot enroll the number of children that they used to. Due to the limited numbers, their costs are much higher, she said. Ms. Alexander also explained that this would be primarily used for the supplies (cleaning supplies, thermometers, installation of handwashing sinks, etc.) or necessary improvements to meet the COVID mandated requirements. They do not want anymore childcare centers closing as a result of COVID.

Mr. Jackson said that the Parish's expenses are directly related to responding to COVID-19. He reiterated that the Parish would have incurred these expenses if COVID-19 had not had happened, and we should not have to be in second position, he said.

Mr. Epperson said that the House of Representatives passed a third comprehensive COVID CARES Act and it is sitting in the Senate with billions of dollars for childcare and mental health.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know the dollar amount in Oil & Gas. Dr. Wilson said that there is about \$6M.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Resolution No. 67 of 2020, a resolution requesting the Registrar of Voters and Caddo Parish Administrator to add an additional early voting location for the November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 election at either the Shreve Memorial Hamilton Library or Shreve Memorial North Market Library and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Jackson said that this does not "marry" the Parish to anything, it simply requests the Registrar to look at these two locations. He also said that these two locations are diverse, whether it is population, geographically, politically, socioeconomic, etc. He asked that the Commissioner support this resolution.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to add the Shreveport Riverview Hall as a possibility for a third early voting location; if the three locations cannot be used for the fall election, then the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum would be the default.*

Mr. Johnson said that the downtown location needs to be in a larger venue to practice social distancing during COVID-19. He also pointed out that if an employee at one of the libraries contracts the coronavirus, that library is shut down and disinfected. Mr. Johnson said that the public has voiced their concerns on having a second early voting location.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if there will be enough time to set up any of these locations for early voting for the next election. He reiterated that Registrar Sibley mentioned that this could be time consuming.

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Mr. Jackson pointed out that the Registrar's Office has the unilateral authority to choose another location, but he is giving the Commission the respect to choose a location. He also explained that his resolution is to evaluate and perform the assessments, so the Commission can make good judgements in the interest of the public. Mr. Chavez agreed with Mr. Jackson.

Mr. Chavez said that he would like to see the Convention Center as an early voting site. He said that there is plenty of space, handicapped accessible, covered parking, etc. He pointed out that there are several options the Commission could explore for an additional early voting site.

Mr. Young is concerned with the time constraints in evaluating each of the sites, as well as, setting them up for early voting. He preference would be to pick one site and request that the Registrar set up the site for early voting, if it can be done. Mrs. Gage-Watts agreed.

She also said that social distancing needs to be considered at this time. She said that it is the Commission's responsibility that citizens are able to exercise their right to vote safely.

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

Mr. Johnson said that his motion was made based on having a second location for the upcoming location. He reiterated that the location needs to be larger to practice social distancing. Mr. Johnson said once again that the public is demanding a second location. He is asking that the Commission move forward with the substitute motion.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to add the Convention Center for consideration as an early voting location.*

Mr. Burrell said that the Convention Center is an opportune location. He would like to add this location to the substitute motion.

Mr. Jackson said that the original discussion was about increasing access, but now it is about space. He explained that adding an additional site less than a mile from the original site does not increase access. As the Commissioner of downtown, Mr. Jackson does not support adding an additional site less than a half a mile from each other. He also explained that if an additional early voting site is picked, then the Registrar would need to get the lines secured, hire staff, etc. He does not know if there will be enough time between now and early voting to accomplish all of this. Mr. Jackson cautioned the Commissioners to respect that process as well. He would like the due diligence to be performed so the Commission can be proud of the work.

Mr. Burrell pointed out that the substitute motion does not exclude the two libraries suggested by Mr. Jackson. Mr. Jackson acknowledged that, but explained that if those two libraries do not work, then the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum will be the early voting site. Mr. Burrell said that this resolution "locks the Commission in" to those two libraries without any other options. Mr. Jackson explained that his resolution looks at those two libraries and to choose one of the two locations that is desirable for the 2020 elections. If neither one of those locations work for 2020, then the Commission will send something for the 2021 election cycle.

Mr. Johnson explained that his motion is to request the Registrar to try the other sites, and if they do not work, then the early voting location would be at the State Exhibit Museum. He reiterated that the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum is plug and play.

Mr. Gage-Watts pointed out that this is not just about an additional early voting satellite location, but is also about COVID-19. She said that she has been advocating for additional sites for years. She asked that the Commission make a decision today.

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

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (5). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (7). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Jackson's original motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8). NAYS: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, and Johnson (3). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Resolution No. 69 of 2020, a resolution urging and requesting Governor John Bel Edwards to establish a moratorium on evictions of tenants within the State of Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Young said that the federal moratorium on evictions has recently expired. Due to the economic conditions in Caddo Parish, this would be highly beneficial to us to not evict people who cannot pay their rent. He feels that this would be bad for public health, bad for the economy, and bad for public morale.

Mr. Johnson said that this would create a domino effect. If the tenants cannot pay the landlords, the landlords then cannot pay the bank. He suggested that a different mechanism be put in place. Mr. Johnson will be voting against this resolution.

Mr. Atkins would like to see the tenant-landlord relationship to be as it was originally intended between two contracting adults. He said that he will not be supporting this resolution.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if there was a way to suspend the dockets for evictions. Mr. Jackson agrees that the resolution is needed, but he would like to gauge the situation at the local level. Attorney Frazier said that she could do some research to determine the number of eviction cases.

Mr. Cawthorne wanted to know when this resolution would expire. He also asked if the past rent payments would be collected. He respects the intent of this resolution, but said that it needs more detail.

Mr. Taliaferro does not believe that there needs to be a mandate on businesses on how conduct their business of renting. He asked if the Commission will reimburse landlords for loss revenues of tenants who cannot pay their rent. Landlords also have bank notes. He does not believe the government should be involved in this issue.

Mr. Hopkins said that the JPs up North work as hard as they can to not evict tenants.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Mr. Young for introducing this resolution. She also said that she is in support of anything to prevent homelessness.

Mr. Chavez wants to know if this resolution dictates residential or commercial properties. Mr. Young said that this resolution applies to both. Mr. Chavez said that he has a commercial property with one tenant. He asked Legal if he should abstain from this vote. Attorney Frazier said that this does not affect a particular property, and there is no financial interest with this resolution.

**Amendment by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to remove commercial property landlords from the resolution.*

Mr. Cawthorne suggested that a mechanism be put in place to allow the tenants to catch up on their rent payments, so the landlord does not have a loss in revenue.

At this time, Mr. Young's motion carried as amended, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Young (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (5). ABSENT: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

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

- Mr. Epperson said that the United States has 6 million COVID-19 cases and is steadily increasing. He asked if the MPC is meeting in the Chambers. Mr. Clarke said that the MPC will be meeting in the Chambers with the full staff and the public is invited to attend.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know if signs are placed at the previous precincts if the polling places have changed. Dr. Wilson said that signs are placed and a person is available to direct citizens to the current location.

She also encouraged citizens to report damages from Hurricane Laura to FEMA.

She announced that there will be a Women In Prayer event at Government Plaza at 5:15 PM on Wednesday.

- Mr. Jackson suggested that command centers be placed in areas that received damage from the hurricane to help citizens assess and report their damages. He also thanked Administration and Public Works for their updates during the storm and its aftermath.

- Mr. Taliaferro asked that Mr. Jump or Dr. Wilson provide a short statement regarding

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reporting damages from the storm. He said that this statement could be disseminated to their constituents.

- Mr. Chavez agreed with Mr. Jackson and Mr. Taliaferro. He also asked that maps be provided of all the compactor sites.

He also talked about the shortages at SPD. He said that SPD is not handling juvenile calls, animal control calls, etc. due to those shortage. He requested that Ms. Beauchamp provide links and numbers to Juvenile Services, Animal Control, etc. to help the citizens with those types of issues.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Ordinance No. 5968 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund and the Oil & Gas Fund for the year 2020 to provide an appropriation for Southern University at Shreveport's Nursing Program and to otherwise providing with respect thereto*

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

/s/Michelle Nations

Assistant Commission Clerk