

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
PANDEMIC & NATURAL DISASTER AD HOC COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Pandemic & Natural Disaster Ad Hoc Committee Meeting, on the above date, at 3:00 p.m., via Zoom teleconference, with Mr. Jackson, Chairperson, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Epperson, Jackson, and Johnson (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Young (2).

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson** to expand the agenda and approve consideration of items under La.R.S. 42:17.1. Motion carried unanimously.

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,

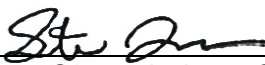
WHEREAS, the Governor, has further extended that declaration via Proclamations Number 158 JBE 2020 and Number 159 JBE 2020; and

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).

DATE: February 23, 2021



Steven Jackson, Chair

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jack Michaels called in with the following comment:

Jack Michaels: Okay my name is Jack Michaels. It is February 20, 2021. I've called numerous times in the past concerning my human rights and my constitutional rights of those with citizens around me. I tried communicating with the hospitals, the department of health, with the mayor, with the governor, with the governor's wife, with the-with the Senator, with the State Rep. I tried doing the Attorney General. I was trying doing everything possible it is about the torture of women's patients that I've told every single one of the commissioners and everyone here you know. I told them all because it's the only platform that I can use even though if they're constitutionally wrong a supreme court ruled that us or AOC can't block or disrupt communications with citizens. Because I can't use that Shreveport dot Shreveport gov shreveportgov city of Shreveport page on that social media to express outcry or to criticize or do anything I want to do as long as its reasonable you know. I can't use-I can't use Mayor Perkins page, because he blocked citizens that try to get help. I started talking to Casey. I tried talking to Joseph Jackson who threatens arrest of the citizens to try to get help for the torture. I've-I and you know Perkins administration has been vague about nine grand so far on the book okay. I've talked to Africa Police who hangs up and

you also said pretty weird bad things too which was a matter of record. I would like to have human rights. I would like to have constitutional rights and I'd like those rights supported to the citizens that I-I advocate for. Because its kind of messed up whenever LSU has no grants for this system. There's been conditions in the past. There's been transit abuse. There's been fraud investigation haven't paid seven hundred thousand dollars in type of fraud. Okay. There's no grievance system. Whenever they arrest people and throw them and kidnap them off the street. They have judges who automatically-automatically send them there you know. The committee orders whatever 1500 hours a day. There's no reason that people should be formed. You know its crimes against humanity in fact this is I've had to come out this far okay. This long. And this many times. And no help has been afforded to me. Not through no Caddo Parish Sherriff's office not through the-the Benjamin Raymond who Mayer Perkins appointed okay. Not through the Sherriff himself. Not through the crime stoppers. No, I've been talking about gay torture elderly women for a very long time up there LSU. I thought autographs, I've got witnesses, other people with testimony.

NEW BUSINESS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Committee and said the following items will be discussed:

- *Update on Emergency Rental Assistance with Resolution No. 9 of 2021*

Mr. Jackson said that there have been several phone calls to organizations and himself regarding this program. He would like to provide an update to the public.

Mrs. Bryant explained that they sent out requests for qualifications to several organizations. Upon receiving the responses and analyzing the guidelines and requirements of the ERAP, they felt the most efficient and expedient method for implementing the program is to use an administrator to manage the overall program, while using community partners to receive and process applications. The community partners would be compensated for their assistance through an agreed upon compensation method. The chosen Administrator will help develop guidelines, help administer, and help design the online portal application. Shreveport Housing Authority has been chosen to administer the program due to their experience with various housing programs. She also said that the weather has delayed the process, but they hope to roll the program out mid to late March.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if anyone has reached out to the court system. As the landlords issue eviction notices, the judges in other counties and parishes are referring them to these programs. Mrs. Bryant said that they have not had that conversation yet, but it will be part of the outreach efforts.

Mr. Jackson mentioned that there is a digital divide within the parish, so he wanted to know how people would apply for assistance if they are not familiar with computers. Mrs. Bryant said that the online application process is an option that an applicant can use. She also said that they will be utilizing community partners to get the word out about the program.

Mr. Jackson asked for more information regarding the online portal. Mrs. Bryant explained that every organization who is taking applications will have access to the portal. The applications would be gathered in the system to determine prioritization and analyzing the applications. Mr. Jackson then wanted to know the process for prioritization. Mrs. Bryant explained that there will be a mechanism in the design process to say how that application came about.

Mr. Cawthorne wanted to know if there has been communication with the property managers. Mrs. Barnett said that she has been receiving calls from landlords, bankers, property managers, and tenants. As soon as she gets a go live date, everyone on the list will receive the information about where to go and what to do.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if the Parish is purchasing some type of software to determine duplications of submissions. Mrs. Barnett said that the software will reside on a website. She also said that the Parish will not be the owners of the software. It will be an online platform. They are working with the community partners to help the elderly people and those who may not be computer savvy and walk them through the process. She also said that there will be training with the computer partners on how to use the software. She pointed out that the software is user-friendly. After the app is submitted, there will be a team of people who will determine the eligibility of the applicants. Mrs. Barnett said that there will also be a quality control component to ensure the guidelines are met.

Mr. Chavez then wanted to know if the guidelines are available in a document for the Commissioners. Mrs. Barnett said that documentation is required by the renter that shows they lost their job due to COVID or otherwise. The eligibility team will verify that those documents are legitimate.

Mr. Chavez then wanted to know if there was a set guideline on the amount of rental assistance a person would receive. Mrs. Barnett said that it calculates based on the medium income and median rent for that area. It can also go back twelve months and forward three months.

Mr. Jackson suggested that Mrs. Barnett shared the updated FAQ that recently came out. He also pointed out that if a person lives in a manufactured home, this will not cover the rent. He said that they are working to get that removed.

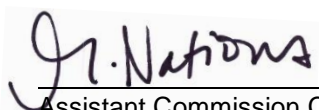
Mr. Young wanted to know if there were guideline for landlords evicting tenants after they received their rental assistance. Mrs. Barnett said that in the design process, the administrator will work with the court systems to ensure that the renters are not kicked out once they are caught up on their rent.

Mr. Jackson asked that waiving late fees be considered as well.

Mr. Jackson also mentioned that COVID-19 Relief Package is making its way through Congress. He said that he has a resolution on the Work Session agenda for the Commission to support it.

Mr. Jackson requested that Finance and Administration put together a synopsis of today's discussion. Mrs. Bryant agreed.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Nations". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Assistant Commission Clerk