

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2021

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

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Atkins *to expand the agenda and to approve the consideration of items under La.R.S. 42:17.1.*

At this time, the President of the Commission opened the floor for any public hearings for or against adding this item to the agenda. There was no one to speak in favor or against this agenda addition.

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

CERTIFICATE FOR TELECONFERENCE

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana has declared a statewide Public Health emergency, inclusive of Caddo Parish, in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020; 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: March 16, 2021
/s/Lyndon B. Johnson
Caddo Parish Commission President

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to adopt the Regular Session Minutes from March 4, 2021.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Special Resolution of*

Appreciation and Recognition for Dr. Sushil Jain be adopted.

Mr. Burrell thanked Dr. Jain once again for all of his research.

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

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION & RECOGNITION
DR. SUSHIL JAIN**

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Caddo Parish Commission to give appropriate acknowledgment and recognition to individuals that have rendered invaluable service to the citizens of Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sushil Jain provides valuable work to the communities in and around Caddo Parish through his primary role as a Professor of Pediatrics at Louisiana State University Health Shreveport. In addition to his work developing the Physicians of the future, Jain has undertaken research which is likely to benefit people around the country & world for years to come; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sushil Jane was recently awarded a 3-year, \$1.52 million grant from the Nation Institute for Health to research ways to address Vitamin D Deficiencies in African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Jain's project, Optimization of 25 Hydroxy-Vitamin D Levels In African Americans, has a goal of developing a safe, low cost dietary supplement that can improve the body's synthesis of Vitamin D and reduce insulin resistance and inflammation; and

WHEREAS, Vitamin D is an essential nutrient that performs many functions, among them are calcium absorption for strong bones, glucose metabolism, immune system health, the reduction of inflammation, and the regulation of over 200 genes in the human body.; and

WHEREAS, 70% of the African American population suffers from Vitamin D deficiency, versus 25% of White population, leading to increased incidences of diabetes, heart disease, COVID-19 associated mortality and other health problems in comparison to otherpopulations; and

WHEREAS, Initial research indicates the L-Cysteine is deficient in African Americans and necessary for the body to process and use Vitamin D, and validating this research will lead to a cure for Vitamin D deficiency;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal session convened this 18th day of March, 2021, that it does hereby convey its deepest and most sincere recognition and appreciation to Dr. Sushil Jain and encourages the citizens of Caddo Parish to join us in the recognition of such groundbreaking, important, local research with such potential to benefit.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Confederate Monument Update

Dr. Wilson said that the responses from the RFP are due April 1, 2021. The awarding of the RFP is estimated to be completed by April 2021 with approved contract signed by May, 2021.

- Disparity Study Update

Dr. Wilson said that the RFP was advertised on February 18 and is due by April 8, 2021.

- I-49 Welcome Sign Update

Dr. Wilson said that one of the signs will be placed on private property on the north end, but they are looking into placement of the sign on the south end.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know the reasons DOTD did not approve the signs submitted. Dr. Wilson explained that they did not approve the design of the sign because DOTD likes all of their signs to be uniformed.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if the welcome sign would be visible on the interstate. Dr. Wilson said that it would be.

- U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Dr. Wilson is anticipating the start date of the program to be April 1, 2021 to begin taking applications. He said that interested parties can call (318) 226-6598 for additional information. A copy of

the flyer was sent to all of the Commissioners.

- Legislative Priorities

Dr. Wilson also announced that the 2021 Legislative Priorities Zoom Call with the Northwest Louisiana Legislative Delegation is scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

- 2021 February Monthly Financials

Dr. Wilson provided a copy of the 2021 February Monthly Financials to the Commissioners.

- Other Updates

Dr. Wilson said that Governor Edwards declared all government workers eligible for the vaccine. He encouraged everyone to do so.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Johnson said that there has been an uptick in violence. Several of the incidents are due to retaliation. He suggested that the Commission work with law enforcement to get a hold of it.

Mr. Johnson announced that there are several testing sites in Caddo for COVID testing. He also said that Caddo Parish is at 2.2% positivity rate.

He would like an update at the first Regular Session on the stats for Animal Services in 2020. During the second Regular Session, he would Public Works to come before the Commission to update I-69.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING ORDINANCES & CASES

The Chair of the Commission opened the public hearing for the following zoning ordinance:

- *Ordinance No. 6037 of 2021, in regards to Zoning Case 20-22-P, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the northeast and southeast corners of Dixie Shreveport Highway and I-220, Caddo Parish, LA, from I-2, Heavy Industrial District and NA, Natural Areas District, to OS, Open Space District and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

The Chair of the Commission opened the public hearings for the following ordinances:

- *Ordinance No. 6031 of 2021, an ordinance declaring certain adjudicated properties to be surplus and to authorize the Parish Administrator, or a designee, to sell the Parish of Caddo's tax interest in certain surplus adjudicated properties, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6035 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$10,000 to provide an appropriation for the Betty & Leonard Phillips Deaf Action Center and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6036 of 2021, an ordinance amending the 2020 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to reduce the appropriation for Riverboat Revenue by \$300,000*
- *Ordinance No. 6038 of 2021, and ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation of \$250,000 for mental health agencies and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Cynthia Mizell submitted the following comment against Ordinance No. 6038 of 2021:

I am writing in opposition to Ordinance No. 6038 of 2021 for your public hearing. As a certified and licensed counselor for over 20 years, I have never heard of a local body paying to cover the cost for providing mental health services. My practice works with a wide array of clients and if this was a

grant opportunity, our practice was never made aware of how to apply. Additionally, I am very concerned with the lack of details that have been provided to the public. As a practitioner, I am required to have a fee schedule that lists the services and cost associated with it. My typical rate for an evaluation is \$35. Without the public knowing any details, this program could charge a \$200 intake fee for basic assessments? I know the Biden stimulus plan will send money to the Parish to help with Covid19 issue, but these dollars shouldn't be thrown away or the benefits will ever be realized. If the local government is going to get into the business of cherry-picking mental health providers and paying them for it, there is absolutely no way an independent practice like the one I have will ever be able to compete. Sincerely Submitted, C. Mizell Owner of Tri-State Counseling Services Inc.

Baylor Smith submitted the following comment against Ordinance No. 6038 of 2021:

Dear Caddo Commissioners, I urge your caution on funding direct mental health services. First and foremost, how were these organizations selected? Was there a process for any other providers to participate? None of the organizations listed cover any rural mental health. Also, our state and federal budgets are loaded with billions in federal matching funds for mental health Medicaid payments for providers to use for direct mental services. Direct funding at the local level is just duplicating more of the same cost which can lead to double billing for the same service. Before approving this, the Commission should strongly consider the following: 1. Should the commission really be funding direct medical care services? 2. How will the Commission ensure the payments are not duplicated? 3. Do not allow funds to be used for co-payments. CMS discourages indigent care to require co-payments. 4. Is there a fee schedule? If so, why has that not been shared? What is in place to prevent taxpayers from being overcharged for services? 5. Is there an income limit for these services that will be provided? If so, what is that limit? Will high income earners benefit from this rather than use their private insurance to get around paying their deductible? 6. How will you ensure each organization complies with all regulations set by LDH and CMS with regards to mental behavioral health. 7. How will the Parish Commission ensure that any public records related to the direct services provided are HIPPA compliant? These are just some things that come to the top of the mind before tax dollars are thrown away on a service that our government is already paying for via Medicaid. Please be good stewards of taxpayers' dollars. Respectfully, Baylor "Bear" Smith, MSW

- *Ordinance No. 6041 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund and the Oil & Gas Fund in the amount of \$30,000 to provide an appropriation to the Northwest Louisiana Food Bank and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6042 of 2021, an ordinance adopting the Budget of Estimated Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6043 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund for the year 2021 to appropriate funds received from the U.S. Treasury for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

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

ZONING ORDINANCES & CASES (for final passage)

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Ordinance No. 6037 of 2021, in regards to Zoning Case 20-22-P, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the northeast and southeast corners of Dixie Shreveport Highway and I-220, Caddo Parish, LA, from I-2, Heavy Industrial District and NA, Natural Areas District, to OS, Open Space District and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

ORDINANCE NO. 6037 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND VOLUME II OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE PARISH OF CADDO, AS AMENDED, THE CADDO PARISH UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE, BY AMENDING THE ZONING OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST CORNERS OF DIXIE SHREVEPORT HIGHWAY AND 1-220, CADDO PARISH, LA., FROM 1-2, HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT AND NA, NATURAL AREAS DISTRICT TO OS, OPEN SPACE DISTRICT AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, is hereby amended and re-enacted to read as follows, to wit:

The official Zoning Map of the Shreveport Metropolitan Planning Area of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, be amended by rezoning property located on the northeast and southeast corners of Dixie Shreveport Highway and 1-220, Caddo Parish, LA, more particularly described below, be and the same is hereby amended **from 1-2, Heavy Industrial District and NA, Natural Areas District to OS, Open Space District:**

18.289 acs, M/L that part of Lot 2, FRL. Sec. 14 (18-14) lying e. of T. & S. & N. RY. R/W, Less R/W for 1-220, also less a S'ly portion of Lot 22 Desc. on Inst 2762672, Section 14, T18N, R14W, Caddo Parish, Louisiana

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance 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 ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after publication in the official journal.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ORDINANCES (for final passage)

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Ordinance No. 6031 of 2021, an ordinance declaring certain adjudicated properties to be surplus and to authorize the Parish Administrator, or a designee, to sell the Parish of Caddo's tax interest in certain surplus adjudicated properties, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

ORDINANCE NO. 6031 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN ADJUDICATED PROPERTIES TO BE SURPLUS AND TO AUTHORIZE THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR, OR A DESIGNEE, TO SELL THE PARISH OF CADDO'S TAX INTEREST IN CERTAIN SURPLUS ADJUDICATED PROPERTIES, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the hereinbelow described properties are no longer needed for public purposes and should be declared surplus properties; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received offers to purchase its tax interest in the hereinbelow described properties as indicated below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the hereinbelow described properties are no longer needed for public purposes and are surplus properties.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has a tax interest in the hereinbelow described properties which have been adjudicated for the non-payment of Parish property taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize the sale of its tax interest in the hereinbelow described properties.

Property No. 1, Lots 9 & 10, Block, 14, West Shreveport Subdivision in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, LA (GEO #171402-074-0016-00)

Property No. 2 N. 40 Ft of Lot 168 & N. 40 FT of W. 37 Ft of Lot 167, University Place, 2nd Filing in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, LA (GEO #171306-111-0194)

Property No. 3 Lot 53, Beverly Hills Sub & ½ Abandoned alley adj. in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, LA (GEO # 171306-007-0053)

Property No. 4 Lot 12 & N/2 of Lot 11, Gains & Hunsicker Subdivision in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, LA (GEO #171305-027-0012)

Property No. 5 Lots 10 & 11, Oaklawn Subdivision, in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, LA (GEO #171305-040-0037)

Property No. 6, Lot 16, BLK 9, Allendale Heights, in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, LA (GEO #181435-113-0016)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Caddo Parish Administrator, or his designee, shall be authorized to do any and all things and to sign any and all documents, including Acts of Cash Sale, in a form acceptable to the Caddo Parish Attorney necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance 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 ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall become effective ten (10) 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. Young**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Ordinance No. 6035 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$10,000 to provide an appropriation for the Betty & Leonard Phillips Deaf Action Center and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

ORDINANCE NO. 6035 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE RIVERBOAT FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE BETTY AND LEONARD PHILLIPS DEAF ACTION CENTER AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, The Betty and Leonard Phillips Deaf Action Center also known as the Deaf Action Center was founded in 1982 to address the lack of services and facilities for the deaf and hard of hearing in Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Deaf Action Center was negatively affected by COVID-19 due to social distancing and the government-mandated shutdown of business which meant that all non-essential medical or other professional appointments were stopped leaving many deaf people in confusing situations; and

WHEREAS, the Deaf Action Center requires funding to meet the expense requirements of providing interpretation services to the deaf community; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to provide a \$10,000 appropriation to the Deaf Action Center; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund for the year 2021 is hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
<u>Riverboat Fund</u>	
NGO Appropriations	
Deaf Action Center	\$10,000
Fund Balance	(\$10,000)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance 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 ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Ordinance No. 6036 of 2021, an ordinance amending the 2020 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to reduce the appropriation for Riverboat Revenue by \$300,000* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

ORDINANCE NO. 6036 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020 BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE RIVERBOAT FUND TO REDUCE THE APPROPRIATION FOR RIVERBOAT REVENUE BY \$300,000

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission approved a budget of \$1,025,000 for Riverboat Revenue in the 2020 budget; and

WHEREAS, based on current collections through January 31, 2021 it appears the Riverboat Revenues will not meet the amount budgeted by \$300,000; and

WHEREAS, total estimated revenues in the Riverboat Fund are failing to meet total budgeted revenue by more than five percent; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to reduce the budget for Riverboat Revenues by \$300,000 to adequately reflect the actual amount that will be earned by December 31, 2020; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund for the year 2020 are hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
Riverboat Fund	
Riverboat Revenues	\$(300,000)
Fund Balance	\$(300,000)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance 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 ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

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. Epperson, *that Ordinance No. 6038 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation of \$250,000 for mental health agencies and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Johnson said that there are some mental health agencies that have programs that they would like to roll out targeting veterans, youth, etc. He also mentioned that the list of agencies can be modified. Mr. Johnson also explained that these programs could help curtail some of the violence in this area.

Mr. Hopkins agreed that mental health issues need to be addressed. He suggested that this ordinance be delayed for two while it is remanded to the NGO committee for further vetting in the meantime.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if this has to do with the ordinance regarding 211. Mr. Johnson said that this is a totally different ordinance that would help organizations who have programs that will help veterans and youth who have mental health issues.

Mr. Cawthorne agreed that this is an excellent program in terms of reducing crime. The mental and social piece are parts of the four-legged stool. Mr. Cawthorne understands that double-billing is a concern from other mental health professionals. Mr. Johnson explained that this program would fill the gap after Medicaid reimbursements, as long as the program addresses the mental health needs of youth and veterans.

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, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (6). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6041 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund and Oil & Gas Fund in the amount of \$30,000 to provide an appropriation to Northwest Louisiana Food Bank and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Johnson explained that this is a Parish food day. There will be five food trucks throughout the Parish giving away boxes of food for the citizens.

Mr. Cawthorne thanked Mr. Johnson for bringing this ordinance forward. He also wanted to know how the prioritization of the food box giveaways would be determined. Mr. Johnson explained that they would be working with the Commissioner for that area, along with community partners and Martha Merrick, to determine where they would give away the food boxes.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6041 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR RIVERBOAT FUND AND THE OIL AND GAS FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000 TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION TO NORTHWEST LOUISIANA FOOD BANK AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Northwest Louisiana Food Bank goal is to end hunger in our area; and WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Food Bank's distribution has increased by 30%; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to have a Caddo Parish Community Food Giveaway Day and distribute food throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like the Food Bank to organize this event; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund and the Oil and Gas Fund for the year 2021 is hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
<u>Riverboat Fund</u>	
Allocation to Other Entities	
NGO Appropriations	
Food Bank	\$30,000
Fund Balance	(\$30,000)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance 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 ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Ordinance No. 6042 of 2021, an ordinance adopting the Budget of Estimated Expenditures for E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Jackson asked for an explanation of this ordinance. Mrs. Barnett said that this ordinance is to set up the expenditures to issue the RFPs. Mr. Jackson agreed and said that this was just a formality.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6042 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES FOR THE E EDWARD JONES HOUSING TRUST FUND AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission created the E Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund in 2018 with Ordinance 5759; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 budget only included revenues of interest earned; and

WHEREAS, no expenditures were budgeted in the E Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund in 2021; and

WHEREAS, expenditures should consist of legal fees, audit fees and administrative cost; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2021 Budget for the E Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund to budget for administrative cost.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the E Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund for the year 2021 as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
E Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund:	
Expenditures:	
Legal and Auditing	\$10,000
General Fund Administration	\$4,000
Professional Services	\$86,000
Fund Balance	(\$100,000)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance 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 ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Ordinance No. 6043 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund for the year 2021 to appropriate funds received from the U.S. Treasury for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Jackson said this is another formality. This would place those housing dollars in the trust fund. Mr. Jackson explained that the Parish will be holding those funds and cutting the checks. Mrs. Barnett said that the will be holding the funds, but directly depositing those funds, not cutting any checks.

Mr. Cawthorne wanted to know if the dollar amount listed is the exact amount the Parish would be receiving. Mr. Jackson said that it is. Mr. Atkins mentioned that this is the dollar amount prior to

the American Recovery Act. Mr. Jackson agreed and said that more will be coming from the American Rescue Plan. He also said that the Parish will also be receiving more funds from the State.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if these funds would be parked here, and a program would be developed to dispense them. Mr. Jackson said that the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) was established to dispense those dollars.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if the interest received from the \$7.1M would have to be tracked separately from the interest accrued from the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund. Mrs. Barnett said that the interest from the \$7.1M would have to back into the program. Mr. Johnson wanted to know if the co-mingling of funds would cause issues. Mrs. Barnett said that historically and ideally, she would prefer to have separate funds because it would be easier to track. She said that they are capable of handling it this way, but prefer it to be separate.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know if the Parish can earn interest off of federal dollars. Mrs. Barnett explained that some grants or appropriations from the federal government does not allow the Parish to earn interest, and in fact if the Parish did earn interest, those funds would have to be paid back. This program, however, allows the Parish to earn interest, but it has to be put back into the program.

Mr. Taliaferro then wanted to know who would be the beneficiary of the interest. Mrs. Barnett said that the Parish would be the beneficiary, but it would have to be used under the same guidelines of the ERAP.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if there was a way to form a sub-account in the E. Edward Jones Trust Fund to separate the funds. Mrs. Barnett said that there is a way in the software to separate the funds, and historically, they have kept federal money separate because of the reporting requirements.

Mr. Jackson said that when he first came to Administration regarding this, everything was ok. He wanted to know if Finance is suggesting creating another special revenue fund. He also pointed out that the funds are parked in the General Fund since the Parish received it. Mrs. Barnett was originally put in to the General Fund, but it was not her intention to keep it there because they have to code it a certain way. She also said that she can do it, however, it is her preference to put it in a separate special revenue fund. Mr. Jackson said that he would have liked to know this preference before today's meeting. Dr. Wilson said that their primary focus has been to get the program up and running and into the hands of those who need it.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6043 OF 2021

BY CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE E EDWARD JONES HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR THE YEAR 2021 TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE US TREASURY FOR THE EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) made available \$25 billion to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo received \$7,162,472 in ERAP from the US Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo must use the grant funds in accordance with the US Treasury grant requirements; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2021 Budget in order to appropriate said grant proceeds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund for the year 2021 is hereby amended as follows:

E EDWARD HOUSING TRUST FUND Budget Increase (Decrease)

Revenues:	
Federal Grant	\$7,162,472
Expenditures:	
Grant Programs	\$7,162,472

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance 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 ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- *Ordinance No. 6044 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Capital Outlay Fund, the Oil & Gas Fund, and the General Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation of \$333,000 to support the Medical Education & Emerging Viral Threats Building and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6045 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation of \$50,000 for the Port City Fest, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6046 of 2021, an ordinance to amend Article III of Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances relative to Provisions for Flood Hazard Protection, to meet revised standards regarding Class 8 Flood Standards in accordance with Community Rating System and Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

WORK SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that the Work Session Minutes from March 15, 2021 be ratified. Motion carried.*

RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Resolution No. 30 of 2021, a resolution to opt into increased bar capacity within Caddo Parish, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be adopted.*

Mr. Johnson said that Caddo Parish’s positivity rate has dropped to 2.2%. He said that the bar owners need some type of relief and try to get back to normal business. Mr. Johnson also pointed out that this falls within the Governor’s guidelines.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 30 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO OPT INTO INCREASED BAR CAPACITY WITHIN CADDO PARISH, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, COVID19 is a national pandemic in the United States; and

WHEREAS, many jobs have been permanently lost as a result OF COVID19; and

WHEREAS, bars have been required to operate at diminished capacity for several months, thus causing a loss of jobs; and

WHEREAS, via PROCLAMATION NUMBER 29 JBE 2021, the Governor has declared that if a parish opts in and if a parish has a COVID-19 percent positivity of 5% or less for two consecutive weeks, as determined and published by the Louisiana Department of Health, bars may operate at 50% capacity, not to exceed 250 people, as determined by the State Fire Marshal; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish has had a COVID-19 percent positivity of 5% or less for the weeks of 2/18-2/24/2021 and 2/25-3/3/2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that Caddo Parish opts into bar reopening at 50% capacity, not to exceed 250 people, as determined by the State Fire Marshal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with PROCLAMATION NUMBER 29 JBE 2021, should Caddo Parish subsequently exceed 5% COVID-19 positivity for two consecutive weeks, bars in Caddo parish shall return to 25% capacity.

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 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.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to confirm the authorization of the Administrator to negotiate and explore costs and options related to the administration and enforcement of planning and zoning matters in the unincorporated areas of the Parish.*

Mr. Hopkins said that this came from the Long Range Planning Committee to begin the process to determine what the costs would be to do the administration and enforcement of planning and zoning the unincorporated areas of the Parish.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to englobe and confirm the following New Business items:*

- *Authorize the Administrator to negotiate and explore costs and options related to the administration and enforcement of planning and zoning matters in the unincorporated areas of the Parish*
- *Authorize approval of Inferno Manufacturing to participate in the ITEP Program at 115 Ricou Street, Shreveport*

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

COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Jackson announced that the Pandemic & Natural Disaster ad-hoc Committee will be forthcoming. He is waiting on additional details.

Mr. Jackson also thanked Administration for working on the grant with LSU Health Science Center to make sure that we continue to address the COVID-19 situation in Caddo Parish.

He also asked that Administration and staff keep him well-informed of issues prior to meeting day.

- Mr. Burrell announced that there will be a water and mask giveaway on Saturday, March 20. He encouraged all to attend.

Mr. Burrell also said that he and some of his constituents are having issues with insurance companies regarding problems with their homes and damages caused by the February Winter Storm.

- Mr. Cawthorne wanted to know the dollar amount in the Safe Summer Program and the funds that were not expended in 2020. He explained that there has been an uptick in crime and feels that

these programs will be able to address some of the socio-economic issues within the Parish.

There was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk


Lyndon B. Johnson
President