

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 20th DAY OF MAY, 2021

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

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to expand the agenda and add Special Resolution of Recognition for Mr. Lamark Carter under New Business.*

Mr. Johnson opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against the agenda addition. There being no one to speak, the President of the Commission closed the public hearing.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, Gage-Watts, and Jackson (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Cedric Floyd came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

Thank you. I'm Cedric Floyd, President of Data Center LLC a full-service redistricting company. Good evening Commissioners, Parish Administrator, and other elected and appointed officials. I'm Cedric Floyd, President of Data Center, LLC. A full-service re-apportionment and redistricting company. In the next 90 days, the 2020 census will be released. Since the last census, there have been newcomers to your Parish. Some residents moving out, that's and some residents moving within the Parish. And these changes have not been equally among your twelve districts. That is why the Caddo Parish Commission districts must be reapportioned based on the 2020 census to comply with federal, state and your home charter. With 40 years of providing reapportioned and redistricting services, Data Center is the most experienced redistricting company in the state U.S. census, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010 and now 2020. Data Center has worked for 40 governmental bodies, that's on your last page and you will see. And we have worked on sixteen election cases all successful. Data Center has unmatched expertise. I'm the Chief Demographer. I've been certified as an expert demographer in all three federal court systems in the state, the only person doing redistricting that's certified as expert demographer in all federal courts. We have unmatched experience on our staff. And also, we guarantee our work. We have done work throughout the Parish. Ten years ago, we did the four Police Juries below you, DeSoto Parish, Red River, Sabine Parish, Natchitoches Parish. Besides, we worked for 10 different Parish governments. We do the whole process-creating maps, public hearings, submitting all documents to state and parish officials. So, when this body begin the process of reapportionment my company Data Center would like to be considered. Thank you very much. I knew it wasn't going to take 3 minutes. Thank you. And my contact information is on the front cover of the handout. Thank you.

Kay Camp came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

My name is Kay Grammar Camp. I'm a local who returned to Shreveport 23 years ago and I love my home. I have seen treasures here since my return that were underappreciated. I'm delighted to say more of those treasures that I saw are being polished and made beautiful Often with what I call the sweet Shreveport style creative spin. Since returning-no since I retired about four years ago, I have been sitting in the audience during Parish Commission meetings, City Council meetings and MPC meetings. That's a lot of meetings. I sit from the beginning to the end of the meetings because sometimes the best is at the very end. And most of the last 15 months I've been watching it live stream, unless live has interrupted us. I have come to know y'all as earnest people. Who are doing the best job you can with the tools and the knowledge you have. It's my hope that we all do that. You have all of my respect for all of the work that you do. What I don't understand-and I want you to help me with it. What I don't understand is why when after 10 plus years of graduate schools throughout our country teaching about the harm created when urban freeways and interstates are placed through cities and neighborhoods. Why are we not acknowledging it? Why did Boston, Massachusetts, San Francisco, California, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, New Haven, Connecticut, Chattanooga Tennessee remove and re-route their interstates and urban freeways? Why is Little Rock and New Orleans critically thinking about re-routing theirs today? Another question I have is why are the governing body and also us citizens not being guided by the professional staff people who have graduated with their urban planning degrees? Why are we, who are not specifically trained in the urban planning field, not hearing about the harm caused by the urban freeways going through neighborhoods. I want the best for the whole city. Over 50 cities are either, tearing their urban freeways and interstates down, they're in court, or they're seriously discussing rerouting the freeways cutting through the cities. Anyone can doubt my numbers. Check them out. But there is collective data that support my numbers. And is easily-

I value my home and respect other's value of their homes. The people in Shreveport deserve y'all knowing about the data. I consider Shreveport special very special. I choose to live here. I can live lots of places. And I understand how citizens really love their homes and before making decisions that deeply affect people's homes, I would like to know that our government leaders have considered the questions I asked. And I thank you sincerely very much for your service.

Bill Robertson came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

Mr. President, Commissioners. Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Bill Robertson I live at 214 Leo I believe I'm in Mr. Taliaferro's district. I'm here to talk about I-49 and highway priorities. I appreciate the Commission putting this resolution forward to express your opinion on highway priorities. I think the more people are involved in this discussion the better answer we're going to have and the better decision we're going to make. I want to suggest an amendment to the Resolution. To direct the legislature to correct the error that was made two years ago diverting \$100 million from Jimmie Davis Bridge replacement to I-49. Jimmie Davis Bridge replacement is a much-needed project. 25,000 cars cross that bridge every day. It's dilapidated. It's obsolete. And it's in bad need of replacement. And It's a non-controversial project. So, I believe the highway department intended for the money to go there and it was diverted by elected officials. All due respect, I think that was a terrible error. And the Commission has the ability now to influence that decision and move that money back. So, once again, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the Commission and look forward to hearing your answer.

Robert Pugh came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

I am the president owner of Rob Pugh Agency a local marketing and advertising firm for 40 years actually this year. And, I was tapped by local leaders, mostly from the Committee 100, to create and implement a public awareness campaign touting the benefits of the completion of the I-49 inner city connector. And I want to share some of the things that I've discovered in that campaign today. Now research shows that an increased access and exposure will provide significant economic impact of to the tune of more than \$800 million annual economic boost to this local economy. And our campaign is touting and certainly highlighting those numbers. But we also want to address some of the questions and concerns from the community. And the number one question I get is where exactly does this proposed route-the preferred route-go? And if we can play that video, we have a little video it kind of explains that not many, many people are under the impression it runs right through the middle of Allendale. As you can see this kind of shows you, it starts up right where it ends basically right at I-20 and it runs north just parallel of Allen Avenue. Allen Avenue is actually the east barrier of Allendale neighborhood. It doesn't cross in the Allendale until it takes that northwest turn at the Fort Street interchange which actually connects us to downtown. Then, once it gets outside Allendale it you know we have the Hearne Avenue interchange. And, then obviously the last part of the 3.5 miles connects at the north side of I-220. And I want to point out that the highway will be elevated. So, the hope is, what I'm understanding and I've read everything I can on the NLCOG website, is that it's elevated. So, it would not be blocking the east, west. So, those streets. So, the elevations actually helpful as far as keeping you know access. It's not causing less access to Allendale and the surrounding neighborhoods. IT's actually providing more access. Which is really important for first responders and level one trauma center patients, you know, where every minute counts. So, then again what about-there are some people, there are some homes that are affected and we do care about those as well. I mean, if you look. When you go through and you look a that map and you drill down, there's actually like less than 60 structures that are actually torn down and having to be people relocating. Some of those homes are uninhabited right now. But, all the property owners will be reimbursed at fair market value of their property and all renters, there's going to be some renters who going to be displaced and you worry about those people. They're not homeowners. They're not property owners. Well there are funds. We done some research. And there are funds available and you guys are more aware of it than I am- Oh, sorry about that. Anyway, there is some, the people who are displaced, the renters who are displaced there are funds available through the federal HUD program that not only provides for help them relocate but also rent-free for up to 42 months. Hopefully, there will be some opportunities for some people to end up in a better place than they are currently. But in addition to that some of these leaders at the Committee 100 have pledged provide volunteer help for every single displaced family or individual to help apply for these funds. That means spending time down in the neighborhood, helping them get on computers, helping them you know take care of filling out the forms to make sure they are taken care of. Because we want-we really want this to be a win-win for everyone. And finally, the increased traffic with the addition of the Amazon Distribution Center plus other large companies that may follow makes this project an even greater priority so we can divert traffic off North Market, downtown and the Cross Lake bridge. In closing, I will say it's been very gratifying experience for me experiencing the tremendous support for this project across all race, political party lines and zip codes. It really is validated that we as citizens live and work in this Parish, most every one of us, have so much more in common than we have differences. And this is one of the very few issues that allows us to demonstrate that. To stand together and make a difference for everyone in our community. Thank you.

Ann Marie Arpino came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

I came to speak about I-49 today. For around 25 years, I have worked pro bono to get I-49 through. Me and a business group together. In the 70s, a very fine medical physician raised \$66,000 in the 70s for this project. Can't give you his name because I don't have permission from his family right now. I was lucky enough and gifted enough to work with him. In the early 90s when I started working with this group. There's 82 of us. 81 of us have a similar income amount and we have a similar love for the city. I love this city and

state so much. I ran for mayor and also ran for State Representative. When I was running I was told you will lose, because you want I-49. I said I'd rather lose. I want I-49. I want to get it out there. I explained then, that the infrastructure of our water will fail. It did. We saw it this year. I explained economic value of I-49 was almost \$800 million, we're seeing it this year. I saw the logistics opportunity for us and I expressed it that large companies would come and give us thousands of jobs. And, now we have Amazon and two others to come, hopefully. What I said was true when I ran for mayor. But you all had to see it first. Now I come here to ask you. Please, please. Let's get these last 3 miles through. When I was at the International Water Commission in 2018 the Governor then sent his people up to talk to me while I was at the Water Commission meeting. Saying the money is there for I-49. Let's roll. Basically, I'm tired of the shell game. Now we're worried about money again? There's money. We need to get this done. We are harboring an area of this town. Some fine folks probably live there and I'm sure do. But that area has not been prosperous for over 40 years. And you all know what I say and I'm saying it correctly. This opportunity of it going through would make it a prosperous area to be for them and for us as a city. Please don't allow this to go over the bridge over cross lake. My father built that water supply for \$400 million in 1955. It's the reason my father's here. My parents were here. My father's mentally inc-He finished Kansas City, finished \$400 million in Cumberland, Maryland and then came down to build City of Shreveport in 1955. Please don't make that wasted all that work and money by letting it be ruined by trucks going over there and toxic waste killing our water system. Right now, we have 82% of western states, right now, because of the drought people-a lot of people-open their waters they can't get water. And when they do its brown. Let's protect what we have. We have a good water system, thanks to my father. I myself had Yorick construction company from 1974 to 1981. I did \$22 million of water and sewer a year for Caddo and Bossier, Many, Farmerville. Bi-lines are holding us up. And my youngest line is 1979 in my neighborhood is Ellerbe Road Estates. And it's so since '79. We need I-49 through this city to make our city strong. We need to grow. We need some prosperity. We need Shreveport to be strong again. Here we have an opportunity and we're playing shell game. I know the money's there. And the EISs have been done I think this is number six in 25 years of working with this. Let's get this thing through. 3.5. My relatives went from Detroit Michigan took a million- I don't know how many millions they're worth now-construction company to Frisco, Texas, Dallas Texas. They're the leading go on highways in the state of Texas and still are today. They've been out there 15 years now. I've watched toll roads. I've watched large highways being built-in all-over Texas that they do and I mean millions and millions and millions and millions of dollars' worth. And they're done and completed over and over and over and over again. We can't get 3.27 miles of ours done in the City of Shreveport? Come on folks. This is our city we got to get behind it. We need I-41-excuse me I-49. We need it completed for the prosperity of our city for the good of our City. And again, please don't let that go over our wonderful cross lake bridge to hurt our water supply. Thank you and thank you all.

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to adopt the Regular Session Minutes from May 6, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.*

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Special Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation for Mr. Kendrick Law be adopted.*

Mr. Burrell commended Mr. Law for all of his hard work during track and field.

Mr. Cawthorne congratulated Mr. Law on all of his hard work as well. He wished him much success in the future.

Mr. Taliaferro also applauded Mr. Law for all of his success on the track. He also mentioned that others will be looking up to him as a role model.

Mr. Johnson echoed the same sentiments as the previous Commissioners and wished Mr. Law well on his future endeavors.

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

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION MR. KENDRICK LAW

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is always pleased to recognize and honor those sons and daughters of Caddo Parish who have gone forth to gain singular and outstanding personal achievements, and in so doing, reflect favorably and positively upon their home community; and

WHEREAS, MR. KENDRICK LAW, a Shreveport native and rising Senior at Captain Shreve High School, has earned many honors during his Junior year and 2021 Track & Field Season;

WHEREAS, Mr. Law's awards and accomplishments this season included: 2021 MVP Male Track Award - Wood Relays Track Meet (Southwood/Woodlawn); 2021 Outstanding Male Track

Award– Caddo Parish Relays Track Meet (Wesley-Payne/BTW); 2021 District 1-5A 1st Place Champion in Long Jump, 100m Dash and 4x100m Relay; 2021 District 1-5A Runner up in 200m Dash; 2021 District 1-5A Boys Track MVP; 2021 1-5A Regional Qualifier in Long Jump, 100m Dash, 200m Dash and 4x100m Relay; 2021 1-5A 1st Place Regional Champion in 100m Dash; 2021 1-5A Regional Runner up in 4x100m Relay anchor leg; 2021 LHSAA 5A State Track Championships Qualifier in 100m and 4x100m Relay; 2021 LHSAA 5A State Runner up in 100m (Time 10.48); 2021 LHSAA 5A State Runner up in 4x100m Relay; 2021 Captain Shreve High School Boys Track MVP; and the 2021 Shreveport Times “Best of Preps Awards” winner for Boys Track & Field athlete of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Law has been honored to have the support of his family, community, teammates and classmates during his Track and Field career, and it has been especially meaningful to be able to train under his father, Coach Kendrick Law, Sr.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in legal and regular session this 20th day of May, 2021, that it does hereby extend its most sincere and heartfelt expressions of congratulation and appreciation to **KENDRICK LAW** for his praiseworthy achievements and for representing Caddo Parish with such admirable strength and dedication to excellence in Track & Field.

It was **moved by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to englobo and adopt the following special resolutions:*

- *Special Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation for Booker T. Washington High School’s Girls Track & Field Team*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation for Chyler Turner*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Mr. Lamark Carter*

Mr. Cawthorne commended the ladies on their success during this year’s track season.

Mr. Burrell said that the efforts and work ethic that these ladies put in during track season is amazing. He congratulated the ladies on all of their success.

Mrs. Gage-Watts also commended the ladies on all of their accomplishments and wished them success on their future endeavors.

Mr. Johnson applauded the ladies on all of their success and wished them well and future success.

At this time, Mr. Cawthorne’s motion carried by acclamation.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL’S
GIRLS TRACK & FIELD TEAM**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is always pleased to observe and enjoy the accomplishments of those Northwest Louisiana sons and daughters who have gone forth to attain success and distinction in the various endeavors they pursue; and

WHEREAS, Lady Lions coach Erica Wynne brought her winning formula from Texas in 2013 and has worked to build a powerhouse in the Louisiana’s 4A girls track and field division; and

WHEREAS, Coach Wynne’s formula for success included the following Lady Lions: Shaterica Cannon, Rakiva Crawford, ShaBrenda Ford, Aisya Taylor, and Chyler Turner who spent countless hours training and preparing for the 2021 season; and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2021 in Baton Rouge, Turner’s first place finishes in the 100 meters, 100-meter hurdles, 200 meters, and 300-meter hurdles, along with the BTW Girls’ relay team of Cannon, Crawford, Ford and Tyler’s third place finishes in the 4x100 relay and 4x 200 relay combined to secure an overall third place finish in the LHSAA State Championship; and

WHEREAS, coach Wynne and her Lady Lions team bring great pride to their school and community through their championship efforts on the track and in the classroom.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby declare and proclaim May 23, 2021 to be:

‘BTW GIRLS TRACK & FIELD TEAM DAY’

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, in recognition and admiration of their notable achievements in the sport of

Louisiana high school girls track & field.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION & RECOGNITION
CHYLER TURNER**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is always pleased to recognize and honor those sons and daughters of Caddo Parish who have gone forth to gain singular and outstanding personal achievements, and in so doing, reflect favorably and positively upon their home community; and

WHEREAS, MISS CHYLER TURNER, a Shreveport native and graduating Senior at Booker T. Washington High School who will attend Duke University in the Fall, has earned the honor of being named the MVP of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association State Track and Field Championship Meet;

WHEREAS, during the LHSAA State Championship Meet, held on May 8th, 2021 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Miss Turner earned a Division 1-4A Championship title in 4 separate races: the 100-meter dash, the 100-meter hurdles where she broke records with her time of 13.71, the 200-meter dash and the 300-meter hurdles and these state wins followed her district and regional titles in the same races; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her talent, work ethic, commitment to excellence and tremendous potential for future success, she has been awarded a full scholarship by prestigious Duke University in Durham North Carolina;

WHEREAS, Turner has been honored to have the support of her family, community, teammates and classmates during her Track and Field career, and especially by coaches, Coach Erica Wynne, Coach Jonathan Stewart, and Coach Rosalyn Allen;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in legal and regular session this 20th day of May, 2021, that it does hereby extend its most sincere and heartfelt expressions of congratulation and appreciation to **CHYLER TURNER** for her praiseworthy achievements and for representing Caddo Parish so elegantly and admirably to the state and nation.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
LAMARK CARTER**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is always pleased to recognize and honor those sons and daughters of Caddo Parish who have gone forth to gain singular and outstanding personal achievements, and in so doing, reflect favorably and positively upon their home community; and

WHEREAS, MR. LAMARK CARTER, a Shreveport native and graduate of Captain Shreve High School who achieved tremendous success in his own Track and Field Career as a Triple Jumper and returned to Shreveport to use his success to develop new generations of successful athletes;

WHEREAS, during his career, Mr. Carter earned many distinguished accomplishments in the Triple Jump, including 1998, 1999 and 2001 USA Outdoor Track and Field Championship titles, 1999 World Indoor Silver Medalist, 1999 Pa Am Silver Medalist, membership on the 2000 US Olympic Team, and the 2001 US Indoor Championship; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to cultivate the sport and community that he loved, Carter established the SPAR Summer Track Team in 2007 with 20 participants and would go on to train and develop over 600 national competitors, 100 college scholarship recipients and 10 All Americans; and

WHEREAS, Carter's track program provides a safe environment and promotes a healthy lifestyle for the youth of Shreveport while simultaneously instilling values of discipline, the pursuit of excellence, perseverance and respect;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in legal and regular session this 20th day of May, 2021, that it does hereby extend its most sincere and heartfelt expressions of recognition and appreciation to **MR. LAMARK CARTER** for his praiseworthy achievements and for representing Caddo Parish so elegantly and admirably to the state and nation while inspiring our own young citizens to do their best and reach for new goals.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING ORDINANCES

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

- *Ordinance No. 6064 of 2021, Zoning Case 21-5-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 north side of N. Market Street, approximately two hundred and sixty feet east of Roy Road Extension, Caddo Parish, LA, from C-1, Neighborhood Commercial District to C-2, Corridor Commercial District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING ORDINANCES

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

- *Ordinance No. 6065 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the General Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation for a one-time pay adjustment to Parish employees who performed essential work during the COVID-19 Pandemic and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6066 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development and the Oil & Gas Fund for Juneteenth fireworks display and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

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

ZONING ORDINANCES (for final passage)

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Ordinance No. 6064 of 2021, in regards to Zoning Case 21-5-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 north side of N. Market Street, approximately two hundred and sixty feet east of Roy Road Extension, Caddo Parish, LA, from C-1, Neighborhood Commercial District to C-2, Corridor Commercial 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, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

ORDINANCE NO. 6064 OF 2021, ZONING CASE 21-5-P

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 NORTH SIDE OF N MARKET STREET, APPROXIMATELY TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY FEET EAST OF ROY ROAD EXTENSION, CADDO PARISH, LA., FROM C-1, NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO C-2, CORRIDOR COMMERCIAL 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 north side of N Market Street, approximately two hundred and sixty feet east of Roy Road Extension, Caddo Parish, LA, more particularly described below, be and the same is hereby amended **from C-1, Neighborhood Commercial District to C-2, Corridor Commercial District:**

0.709 ACS. M/L - BEGIN NORTH 295.7 FT. AND S. 60 DEG. 24 MIN. 30 SEC. E. OF HWY. #1, 307.17 FT. OF THE SW CORNER OF SEC. 30(19-14), THENCE RUN SOUTH 60 DEG. 24 MIN. 30 SEC. E. 125 FT., THENCE RUN N. 29 DEG. 35 MIN. E. 260 FT., THENCE RUN N. 60 DEG. 24 MIN. 30 SEC. W. 125 FT., THENCE RUN S. 29 DEG. 35 MIN. W. 260 FT. TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, LESS R/W, SECTION 30, T19N, 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. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6065 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the General Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation of a one-time pay adjustment to Parish employees who performed essential work during the COVID-19 Pandemic, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be adopted.*

Mr. Jackson said that this is an opportunity to show appreciation for the sacrifice and commitments that the Parish employees have demonstrated throughout the Pandemic.

Mr. Taliaferro appreciates all of the Parish employees for working through the pandemic. He said that this is "just giving out employees an additional stimulus check". He pointed out that no one was laid off during the pandemic.

Mr. Hopkins said that he will be supporting this ordinance because of the hard work of the Parish employees during this time.

Mr. Johnson commended the Caddo Parish employees through the pandemic and through the natural disasters that hit the community. He also pointed out that the employees worked through the pandemic and kept the Parish running.

Mr. Chavez thanked Administration for all of their work during the pandemic.

Mr. Atkins said that these are federal dollars coming to our community. He said that this ordinance is a thank you for all of the hard work they've done in the past and in the future.

Mr. Cawthorne said that the employees of the Parish are the backbone of this community. He applauded the men and women of Caddo Parish.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6065 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE YEAR 2021 TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION FOR A ONE-TIME PAY ADJUSTMENT TO PARISH EMPLOYEES WHO PERFORMED ESSENTIAL WORK DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo reported its first COVID-19 case on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo currently has over 25,700 cases and 737 deaths due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Parish employees continued to faithfully perform essential work of the Parish during the pandemic, including during the stay at home order; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to provide permanent, fulltime Caddo Parish employees with a one-time pay adjustment of \$1,500; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to provide part-time, seasonal, and temporary Caddo Parish employees with a one-time pay adjustment of \$900; and

WHEREAS, to receive the pay adjustment, the employee must be an active employee as of March 31, 2021, currently employed by Caddo Parish at the time the payment is made, and shall have actively worked within the past twelve months from 3/1/2020 to 2/28/2021; and

WHEREAS, WHEREAS, monies used to cover the cost of the pay adjustment shall be reimbursed from funds received from the American Rescue Plan under essential worker provisions in accordance to Subtitle M, Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan; and

WHEREAS, this pay adjustment will not be made until after the receipt of the American Rescue Plan funds; and

WHEREAS, the Pandemic and Natural Disaster Ad Hoc Committee recommends adoption of this ordinance; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2021 Budget to provide an appropriation of up to \$600,000 to provide the pay adjustment and associated taxes; 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 General Fund for the year 2021 is hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
<u>General Fund</u>	
Essential Worker Pay Adjustment	\$600,000
Fund Balance	(\$600,000)

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. Epperson, *that Ordinance No. 6066 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development and the Oil & Gas Fund for Juneteenth firework display and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Amendment by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to increase the funding by \$10,000 and take the entire appropriation from the American Rescue Plan funds.*

Mr. Jackson said that the cost of the firework display and the marketing aspect was budgeted too low for the actual cost of the event. He also said that the organization will be a COVID-19 vaccination site as well. Because of the COVID-19 vaccination aspect, this will qualify under the American Rescue Plan.

Mr. Burrell asked that Administration research state law to allow Caddo Parish to extend the days for fireworks.

Mr. Chavez asked that a local company be the procurer of the fireworks.

Friendly amendment by Mr. Johnson *to change the name of the organization to Rho Omega & Friends, Inc.* Mr. Jackson accepted.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's amendment 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).

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried as amended, 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. 6066 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE OIL AND GAS FUND FOR JUNETEENTH FIREWORK DISPLAY AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission adopted Resolution 44 in 2020 to recognize Juneteenth Independence Day to be recognized and celebrated in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth serves as an extremely significant day of remembrance and acknowledgment of the history, freedom, culture, strength, perseverance, and achievement of the past, present, and future generations of the African American community; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth holds an important place not only in African American history, but in United States history for all Americans to reflect on, learn about, and appreciate the struggles, triumphs, and continued growth of our nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, local communities throughout the United States, such as Caddo Parish, support the significance of Juneteenth and all that it symbolizes in the history and culture of African American people during the annual Let the Good Times Roll Festival sponsored by the Rho Omega and Friends, Incorporated; AND

WHEREAS, KSLA will provide a live remote broadcast of the Rho Omega Let the Good Times Roll Festival and firework festivities similar to the KTBS July 4th Independence Day firework festivities, and

WHEREAS, the event will provide positive, exposure to our parish, generates economic activity for the parish, and promotes our quality of life, and

WHEREAS, monies used to cover the cost of the Juneteenth event shall be reimbursed from funds received from the American Rescue Plan as the Juneteenth event will also serve as a Covid-19 vaccination site and promotion of vaccination which are eligible expenses; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to amend the 2021 Economic Development and Oil and Gas Fund Budgets to appropriate for the Juneteenth Independence Day Celebration; 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 Economic Development and Oil and Gas Fund for the year 2021 is hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
<u>Oil and Gas Fund</u>	
Transfer to Economic Development Fund	\$25,000
Fund Balance	(\$25,000)
<u>Economic Development Fund</u>	
NGO Appropriations	
KSLA - Juneteenth Independence Day Celebration	\$25,000
Transfer from Oil and Gas	\$25,000

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.

ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- *Ordinance No. 6067 of 2021, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, to establish the provisions for a Special Exception Use, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6068 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$17,225 to*

provide an appropriation for Robinson Rescue, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

- *Ordinance No. 6069 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund for the year 2021, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6070 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the General Fund to provide an appropriation for Wheelchair Ramp & Roof Repair Program and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6071 of 2021, an ordinance to establish a Parish Planning & Zoning Commission, to provide for its membership, to provide an effective date, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

WORK SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the Work Session Minutes from May 17, 2021 be ratified. Motion carried.*

RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that Resolution No. 43 of 2021, a resolution to authorize the acceptance of the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire be adopted.*

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

- *Resolution No. 43 of 2021, a resolution to authorize the acceptance of the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire*
- *Resolution No. 44 of 2021, a resolution declaring May 22, 2021 as National Maritime Day and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 45 of 2021, a resolution in support of completing the I-49 Inner City Connector, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

Mr. Chavez requested that the resolution be printed, signed, and sent to Congressman Johnson.

Mr. Young said that he will voting no because his constituents have raised concerns regarding Resolution No. 45 of 2021, I-49 Inner City Connector and the ability to pay for long-term maintenance.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know how this will affect the Jimmie Davis Bridge project. Mr. Burrell said that the Jimmie Davis Bridge is still in the Capital Outlay Budget. Dr. Wilson mentioned that they had a NLCOG meeting this morning, and the State has already taken steps to move forward with the engineering design on the Jimmie Davis Bridge. Mr. Burrell agreed.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 43 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE LOUISIANACOMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is required to complete the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire which addresses the Commission's compliance with various State and Federal laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the questionnaire, the questionnaire must be presented to and adopted by the Commission by means of a formal resolution in an open meeting; and

WHEREAS, the completed questionnaire and a copy of the adoption instrument must be

presented to the Commission's auditor at the beginning of the audit which is anticipated to begin in April 2021; and

WHEREAS, the questionnaire has been completed and is now hereby presented for adoption; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal and regular session convened, hereby accepts the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire as presented and accepts full responsibility for the Commission's compliance with the laws and regulations addressed by the questionnaire.

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 resolution or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION NO. 44 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION DECLARING MAY 22, 2021 AS NATIONAL MARITIME DAY AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, on May 22, 1819, the steamship *The Savannah* set sail from Savannah, Georgia on the first successful transoceanic voyage under steam propulsion, thus making a material contribution to the advancement of ocean transportation, and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 1933, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled and approved that May 22 of each year shall be designated and known as National Maritime Day, and

WHEREAS, during WW II in what became the world's largest sealift operation, more than 250,000 members of the American Merchant Marine served their country, with more than 6,700 giving their lives, hundreds being detained as prisoners of war and more than 800 ships being sunk or damaged, and

WHEREAS, waterways have enabled much of the commerce that has expanded America's economy, sprouted cities near waterways and facilitated vast domestic and international commerce crucial to our economy today, and

WHEREAS, merchant mariners have served America with distinction throughout our history, but especially at critical moments of war and natural disaster, and

WHEREAS, the United States Merchant Marine and thousands of other workers in our Nation's maritime industry continue to make immeasurable contributions to our economic strength and our ongoing efforts to build a more peaceful world, and

WHEREAS, the United States Merchant Marine also shepherds the safe passage of American goods, move exports to customers around the world, support the flow of domestic commerce on our maritime highways, strengthen our Nation's economy, bolster job creation and, along with the transportation industry, employ Americans on ships and tugs, and in ports, like our Port of Caddo Bossier, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Caddo-Bossier Parishes Port Commission to increase the awareness of the maritime industry within Caddo and Bossier Parishes and the State of Louisiana.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Caddo Parish Commission joins the President of the United States of America in proclaiming May 22, 2021, as **NATIONAL MARITIME DAY** and calls upon the citizens of to celebrate this observance.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 45 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COMPLETING THE I-49 INNER CITY CONNECTOR, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the I-49 Inner City Connector has been contemplated since at least 2010;
and

WHEREAS, the I-49 Inner City Connector is projected to provide several hundred million dollars in economic impact to Caddo Parish and the surrounding area according to a 2016 report commissioned by NLCOG; and

WHEREAS, the I-49 Inner City Connector mitigates potential contamination of the local water supply by taking a direct route that avoids going over Cross Lake; and

WHEREAS, the I-49 Inner City Connector has become more necessary as more businesses and industry locate in Caddo Parish and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, Amazon has announced the location of a new distribution center in Caddo Parish, which will significantly increase 18-wheeler traffic needing interstate access.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that it hereby supports completing the I-49 Inner City Connector as soon as possible.

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. Young**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Gabriel Balderas be appointed to the Metropolitan Planning Commission Board to fill Mauricio Roca's unexpired term (term to expire January 1, 2024) be confirmed. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (9). NAYS: Commissioner Young (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Jackson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to englobo and confirm the following appointments:*

- *Appointment of Loyd K. Thomas to the Long Range Planning Citizen's Advisory Committee to study planning and zoning in the Parish*
- *Appointment of General Jim Graves to the Long Range Planning Citizen's Advisory Committee to study planning and zoning in the Parish*
- *Appointment of Ray Tindel to the Long Range Planning Citizen's Advisory Committee to study planning and zoning in the Parish*
- *Appointment of Don Razinsky to the Long Range Planning Citizen's Advisory Committee to study planning and zoning in the Parish*
- *Appointment of Michael Billings, Sr. to the Long Range Planning Citizen's Advisory Committee to study planning and zoning in the Parish*
- *Appointment of Jessica Tullis to the Long Range Planning Citizen's Advisory Committee to study planning and zoning in the Parish*

Mr. Jackson asked that the Commission would extend the same courtesy and respect on any other appointments going forward.

At this time, Mr. Burrell'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).

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Confederate Monument Update

Dr. Wilson said that only one bid which came in at four times what is budgeted for the project. They will resume the process and continue to look for a service provider that will relocate the monument within budget.

- Disparity Study Update

Administration has received the proposals from the disparity study and selected Keen Independent Research. They are in the process of completing a contract with them.

- I-49 Welcome Sign Update

LADOTD approved the design and are now in the permitting process with the State. They are hoping to receive sealed quotes in June.

- U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Dr. Wilson said that Caddo Parish has issued \$1.4M for emergency rental assistance. Nearly 50% of applications have been funded.

- E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund RFP

Dr. Wilson said that the RFP was sent April 22 and is due back by June 30, 2021. Work Session Minutes May 17, 2021 Mr. Atkins wanted to know the project that is being bid out. Dr. Wilson said that it is for management of the Housing Trust Fund.

- American Rescue Plan Funding

Dr. Wilson said that they received the first tranche of the American Rescue Plan funding of about \$3.3M, along with written instructions on how to spend it.

- Update on I-49 Inner City Connector
Kent Rogers

Mr. Rogers said that there was a bill in the Legislature, specifically HB 645, to replace the I-49 Corridor with the Jimmie Davis Bridge. He explained that bill did not leave the committee favorably and did not move to the floor. SB 1 will change how the tax is distributed by taking it and moving it to the Transportation Trust Fund over a period of time. The Mega Projects Program will be funded out of that, and the I-49 Inner City Corridor is considered a mega project. Mr. Rogers then talked about the American Rescue Plan funding. He said that there is about \$40M will be dedicated to infrastructure programs, but the Governor has not indicated which projects will be included in that.

Mr. Rogers then gave an update on I-49. They are still working on the cultural research work for the area. There are over 2,000 structures and properties that have been surveyed. This includes both the build-through and the 3132 alternative. They are waiting on Federal Highways review of that. There have been some preliminary bridge concept ideas, but until Federal Highways has reviewed and approved the document, it cannot be shared with the public. They are still looking at the end of this year, beginning of next year, to have the draft EIS out. After the draft EIS is out, there will be a series of public hearings and comments. He said that it is a procedural process.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know about how long the public hearing is. Mr. Rogers explained that there has to be a 30 day notification period for the public hearing, then another 15 days following the public hearing for public comments. Once those comments come in, the consultant has about 30 days to compile all of the comments and submit back to LADOTD. Then there's a 30 day comment period for Federal Highways. If all of the comments or suggestions are satisfied, then a record of decision or ROD is drafted and presented to Federal Highways. That's the final determination on the project. Mr. Rogers said that it'll be about five to six months for the ROD.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know how the meetings will be presented. Mr. Rogers said that the ways it'll be presented is that there will be an open house format to part of it. Citizens comments, verbal or in writing, can be submitted.

Mr. Chavez said that the I-49 Inner City Corridor has been in discussion since the 1970s, he wanted to know if it is close to the finish line now. Mr. Rogers said that it all depends on the dollars. The

quicker the dollars come in, the quicker to get it completed and constructed. He also said that typically after the ROD, it'll take about two years to get the final design and engineering.

Mr. Chavez also wanted to know the cost for this project. Mr. Rogers said that the State has already allocated \$100M towards this project, but at least an additional \$600M is needed to complete it.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if Amazon coming to town will expedite this process. Mr. Rogers said that it wouldn't hurt.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know when the completion of the ROD will be completed. Mr. Rogers said that they anticipate that the draft EIS will be completed the end of this year or beginning of next year.

Mr. Burrell also said that there have been a couple of major projects for this area, i.e. I-20 extension, I-69 extension, etc. He wanted to know if those projects had to have an ROD as well. Mr. Rogers said that the Barksdale Gate Access Road was completed under an environmental assessment and did not require a "full blown" EIS. This is because the majority of the property was already owned or under the control of some governmental agency. Mr. Rogers said that project took about ten years to complete.

Mr. Burrell asked about the additional expenses related to the I-49 project. Mr. Rogers explained that Federal Highways determined the Loop-It option was a viable option to study, along with the cultural work that had to be completed which was not originally budgeted for.

Mr. Burrell also mentioned that there have been several accidents on the Cross-Lake Bridge over the past few weeks. He pointed out that toxic chemicals and materials could be dumped into the water supply because of these accidents.

Mr. Taliaferro asked about the 2,000 structures. Mr. Rogers explained that these could be outbuildings, sheds, concrete pads, etc. He also mentioned that this is not just the Inner City Corridor, but also the corridor that traverses to I-20 and the Inner Loop. Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know if anyone has been approached to have their property bought for this project. Mr. Rogers said that no one has been approached just yet.

Dr. Wilson agreed and said that this project has been in discussions since the 1970s, but they also just approved their Regional Transportation Plan that goes out to 2040. He said that these are long-term projects.

Dr. Wilson also pointed out that NLCOG has already voted on the preferred route. He wanted to know how much that would weigh on the Federal Highway Commission. Mr. Rogers said that it plays a part in it.

Mr. Jackson mentioned the infrastructure bill that is before Congress now. He wanted to know if it contemplates I-49. Mr. Rogers said that there are projects of community interests, but there are no specific projects identified in the current infrastructure project. Mr. Jackson wanted to know who would determine the local programs. Mr. Rogers said that those would be submitted by the Congressional Delegation. He also explained that there will be two categories for the overall funding; one category would be what is considered programmatic funds, interstate maintenance funds, the high priority program, the bridge program, etc. There is also what they are calling community interests projects. Each of the members of Congress will be allowed to submit up to six projects for the infrastructure bill.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know who would ultimately choose which projects will be completed. Mr. Rogers said that Congress will vote on the projects, and Federal Highways and DOTD would be responsible for implementation.

Mr. Jackson mentioned that President Biden has made comments regarding the cultural aspects and the historic nature of elevated highways going through African American neighborhoods. Mr. Jackson wanted to know how this plays into it. Mr. Rogers explained that there is a very formal process, and that process is what determines the projects. Mr. Jackson wanted to know if the process contemplates the cultural process. Mr. Rogers said it does, and it is the part of the process that takes the most time.

Mr. Jackson asked about the Claiborne Expressway. Mr. Rogers explained that comments from his counterpart and comments from many local leaders in New Orleans is "hell no". Mr. Jackson mentioned that the President said he wanted to dedicate monies in the local infrastructure bill to remove structures like the Claiborne Expressway. Mr. Rogers said that even removal of highways have to go through the environmental process. He also mentioned that there are no individual projects in the President's infrastructure bill at this time.

Mr. Jackson then wanted to know how soon after the ROD would the citizens be able to drive on the completed portions of the I-49 Corridor. Mr. Rogers responded and said that the quicker the funding comes in, the quicker the project can be completed.

Mr. Young wanted to know how many miles is the Inner City Connector. Mr. Rogers said that it is approximately 3.6 miles to seven miles.

He then wanted to know how much travel time it would save. Mr. Rogers said it would that it would maybe be 8-10 minutes.

Mr. Young then wanted to know how far north does I-49 go. Mr. Rogers said that it extends approximately 15 miles north of Texarkana, then it picks up just south of Fayetteville to Kansas City and ties into I-29 and goes up to Canada. Mr. Young then mentioned that there's a gap between Texarkana and Fort Smith, and in the middle of that gap, there is the largest and oldest forest in the South, the Ouachita National Forest. Mr. Young wanted to know if it has been contemplated that I-49 would go through that forest. Mr. Rogers said that there is a ROD and an environmental document for that portion, and there is environmental for that corridor.

Mr. Young mentioned the repairs that needed to be made on I-49 shortly after it was built in the south. Mr. Rogers said that those repairs were contractor issues. Mr. Young wanted to know how long does it take for one of the interstates to need maintenance investments again, barring contractor error. Mr. Rogers said that they are designed for a 30 year standard. Mr. Young wanted to know if I-20 was due for maintenance. Mr. Rogers said that it is past the need for maintenance, but there are a series of projects going on right now from Monkhouse to Airline Drive.

Mr. Young said that some of his constituents are concerned with the funds to maintain these interstates. Mr. Rogers said that there are funds being dedicated to safety maintenance rather than new construction and capacity expansion projects.

Mr. Young then talked about the retention pond for Cross Lake. Mr. Rogers said that there's some type of filtration system under the bridge. Mr. Young wanted to know if it is working, or if there should be worries about wrecks on the bridge. Mr. Rogers said that it is working, but feels that it would be wise to improving it.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Mr. Rogers for coming to the Commission meeting and updating the Commissioners on I-49. She said that she is in full support of this project.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Chavez wanted to know if the MPC is under the City or the Parish. Attorney Frazier said that the MPC falls under the City and the Parish until the end of the year. Next year, it'll fall under the City. She further explained that the City takes care of their administrative need, but they fall under the City and the Parish to the extent that they have zoning ordinances for both the City and the Parish. Their decisions are appealable to the Parish for areas outside of the city limits, but within the planning limits until January 2022.

He also scheduled a Long Range Planning Committee on June 3 at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Chavez congratulated Mr. Johnson for being named President of the Black Caucus for the State of Louisiana.

- Mr. Burrell requested that Administration and the Economic Development Committee look into the research that LSU is conducting regarding wastewater and SARS and COVID-19.
- Mr. Young talked about the I-49 Inner City Connector and other infrastructure projects. He said that the I-49 Inner City Connector is a very short very expensive road. He said that the I-20 and Greenwood Road project would be more beneficial to the Parish by investing in an access road to a pre-certified LED site.
- Mr. Jackson said that some constituents have concerns with operating Google Hangouts for the Citizens Participation Meeting with the MPC.

He also said that the Pandemic & Natural Disaster Committee will host public listening sessions in the areas outside of the Parish regarding the American Rescue Plan funds and a strategic action plan for those funds.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if the Pandemic Committee makes recommendations to the full body regarding the American Rescue Plan funds. Mr. Jackson said that it is their goal to come back to the full body with a consolidated recommendation for pandemic related expenses.

Mr. Jackson also congratulated Mr. Johnson for being named President of the Black Caucus for the State of Louisiana.

- Mr. Atkins announced that the Audit & Finance Committee will meet on June 14 at 2:00

p.m. Additional details will be forthcoming.

- Mr. Burrell announced that the Sickle Cell Softball Tournament will be held on July 9-11.
- Mr. Cawthorne said that the PJAL Convention was well attended and informative. He also congratulated Mr. Johnson for being named President of the Black Caucus for the State of Louisiana.

He offered condolences for the friends and family of Paul Mooney.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Johnson said some of the main concerns at the PJAL Convention were broadband accessibility, American Rescue Plan funding, Red River dredging, infrastructure issues, etc. The next PJAL Convention will be held in Lake Charles in March 2022.

He said that there are two fixes for the Red River flooding: build a lock and dam in North Caddo or dredge the Red River.

He asked that Administration look into digital COVID-19 vaccine cards.

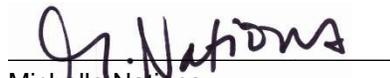
Mr. Johnson also congratulated Mrs. Gage-Watts on being named Vice-President of the Black Caucus for the State of Louisiana.

He announced that the American Rescue Committee will meet on May 27 at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Johnson also announced that he will be dissolving the Pandemic Committee.

Mr. Johnson also said that the Governor exempted wearing masks in government buildings, but they will continue to have to wear masks in the Chambers. He said that this will take effect on Monday.

Mr. Jackson asked that Legal draft legislation to create the Pandemic Committee as an ad-hoc committee. Mr. Johnson said that as the President, he has the authority by the By-Laws to create ad-committees and assign members of those committees.

There was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk


Lyndon B. Johnson
President