

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 15th DAY OF June, 2020

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

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

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

There was one Agenda Addition from Commissioner Epperson, a resolution supporting the renaming of Ft. Polk.

Mr. Chavez asked if there were any public comments for or against the agenda addition and invited anyone interested in commenting to call 318-226-6596. There were none at the time.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to expand the agenda to include consideration of the resolution supporting the renaming of Ft. Polk.

Mr. Epperson said that this resolution suggests that if Ft. Polk is renamed, that it be named after a Louisiana soldier and Medal of Honor recipient of the Vietnam War era.

At this time, **Mr. Epperson'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 (0). ABSENT: Jackson (1). ABSTAIN (0)

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Ms. Jon Glover submitted the following statement:

1) 11.I Authorize Introduction of Ordinance No. 5960 Of 2020—An NGO recipient has to submit accounting of the funds given by the Caddo Parish Commission in the year expended, is that correct? Seemingly, it would be that the NGO recipient did not exhaust its funding for whatever reason. Why the consideration of re-appropriating of these funds this juncture, 6 months into the year. Was there not a new application submitted for the 2020 year? What is that status? 2) 11.II Authorize Resolution No. 41 Of 2020—What is this really about? The Resolution is quite confusing. 3) 11.IV Authorizing Resolution No. 43 Of 2020—What law enforcement entity does this Resolution address? 4) 11.V Authorize Resolution No. 44 Of 2020—This Resolution, to me, supports a continuing of what we say we are working to eradicate, division and divisiveness. Why is this needed or necessary? 5) 11.VI Authorize Resolution No. 45 Of 2020—Though African Americans have been recipients of practices that led or leads to premature death due to overreach of "police officers, unscrupulous", why the distinction and not just a policy for the whole? Just asking. 6) 11.IX Authorize Resolution No. 48 Of 2020—Why? What specifically are we asking? Is there data that support that 10 bases and other Department of Defense locations, practices promoting segregation are being met by service members and others who visit these locations all predicated on Confederate or Confederacy ideology? If so, please provide it.

Ms. Patricia Smith submitted the following statement:

I am against Resolution 48 in full we can not erase history to improve the future. I want to know who is paying for resolution 47 and ordinance 5959. Resolution 46 is already illegal.

**VISITORS**

- City of Shreveport Marshall Charlie Caldwell

Marshall Caldwell was joined by Chief Deputy Marshall Jefferson. Mr. Epperson greeted Marshall Caldwell and Deputy Marshall Jefferson and expressed appreciation for Marshall Caldwell's availability to and service of the public. Mr. Epperson continued by recognizing the situation relevant to law enforcement, incidents such as George Floyd, back to Rodney King and even events in his home town in the 1950's exhibited the unequal treatment, primarily of African Americans. Mr. Epperson mentioned that he typically holds town halls and Marshall Caldwell usually participates. Mr. Epperson's townhall meeting was cancelled due to the Covid pandemic and wanted to give the Marshall an opportunity to discuss his role. Mr. Epperson begins with a question, Are your deputies under state civil service guidelines? Marshall Caldwell responds that their office is not under civil service guidelines, but they are post certified. He explained their training requirements which include a Police academy. Mr. Epperson asks if his deputies are members of any union of collective organization that determines policy or disciplinary actions? Marshall Caldwell responds that they operate under their own policies and procedures, including some mandated through the state. We are compliant with the law in the State of

Louisiana, Parish of Caddo and the City of Shreveport. His employees are not unionized, but are affiliated with State & National Constables and Marshall's Associations. Mr. Epperson clarifies that their training is the same as Police, state police, and other law enforcement training. Marshall Caldwell expressed that they do and they do additional training, for instance in crisis negotiations, homeland security, training through the FBI, leadership training, making his deputies well versed. 15-16 of the 35 deputies are certified instructors in various aspects of law enforcement. They train 6 times a year and their authority goes throughout the City of Shreveport and into the Parish beyond the city borders. Mr. Epperson asks if any of the training includes diversity, racial sensitivity, mental illness, sexual harassment or other domestic circumstances. Marshall Caldwell confirms that they do and gives an example that they are about to do another PTSD class. They are hosting that training for officers throughout the region at their training center. Sensitivity and Diversity training are annual parts of their training. They do tests from the state and that training is required for the officers to receive state supplemental pay. Epperson asked if any Police Brutality or ethical complaints or law suits have been filed against their office. Marshall Caldwell shares that they have not and attributes that to their rigorous training. Mr. Epperson asked Marshall Caldwell how long he has been in that position. Marshall Caldwell says that he was appointed to the position in 2008 and has been in the position for almost 13 years. Mr. Epperson asked if he came in under former Marshall Jimmy Dove. Marshall Caldwell says that he was appointed by Mr. Dove when he retired. Caldwell had previously served as Chief Deputy Marshall and that is the person who is designated to fill a vacated Marshall seat. He had 8 months as acting appointed Marshall and was elected for the following year. Mr. Epperson asks how many female deputies are on their team. Marshall Caldwell responds that there are 7, which is up from 2 or 3. He expressed that they are equal opportunity employers and the females get the same training as the guys.

Mr. Chavez asked for the premise of the Q & A. He compliments the Marshall's service but expresses that he has other Commissioners on the board to speak.

Commissioner Epperson expresses that Mr. Chavez can't cut him off and that Commissioners have a right to ask questions to visitors. Mr. Chavez says that he just wants to make sure that Marshall Caldwell isn't uncomfortable with the line of questioning. Marshall Caldwell confirms that he is comfortable answering any question and values transparency.

Mr. Epperson asks if their office participates in any collaborative efforts such as drug raids, gang abatement or any other operations in concert with federal state or other agencies. Marshall Caldwell confirms that they do. They work with US Marshalls, Caddo Sheriff's office, Shreveport Police, State Police Desoto & Lincoln Parish Police and other agencies for various task forces and raids. They have done numerous drug raids and warrant operations. They He makes sure that they don't go in unprepared and that his deputies are equipped with the necessary instruments and tools for the field and going into residences and establishments so that they can return home safely to their families. Mr. Epperson asks what kind of Community Outreach programs their office uses to interact with the public. Marshall Caldwell responds that they have the first Louisiana Marshall's office to have the D.A.R.E. program. They also participate in amnesty day, My Brother's Keeper, Read Across America, and various community outreach programs that they participate in throughout the year. Mr. Epperson asks Marshall Caldwell to explain about what they do, the area they serve and acknowledges that repossession of automobiles and evictions can get volatile. Marshall Caldwell says that about 35,000- 40,000 documents a year are processed- executed arrest warrants, court order, various seizures, sequestrations, evictions, etc. come continuously. Covid slowed it down some, but evictions started back up today. Even though we have to seize property and eviction and we do come into contact with hostile individuals.

Mr. Burrell thanks Marshall Caldwell for his answers and expresses the importance of educating the public. He asks if there is a policy infraction of some sort, who investigates that- the state? Internal? Or another group? Marshall Caldwell answers that they don't do in house investigations but go to the State Police or the Attorney General to come in and do any investigation about wrongdoings in his office. Mr. Burrell asks how that is initiated. Marshall Caldwell says that it is initiated by a complaint. He continues that he holds his deputies to a high standard. The Public is our boss and we have to abide by them. If they feel something has been unethical, the state comes in. Marshall Caldwell also expresses that concerns that are realized internally go through Chief Deputy James Jefferson handles initially and then to him. They also have a warrant division, a garnishment division, the court division and other divisions that have supervisors who can move concerns up. Mr. Burrell compliments Chief Deputy Jefferson and asks for clarification on their boundaries. Marshall Caldwell expresses that they go beyond the city in Ward 4 in the Parish. This encompasses 3 precincts outside of the city.

Mr. Cawthorne asks on a percentage basis, how many arrests does the Marshall's office do. Marshall Caldwell says that he can't give an exact number, but it is quite a few and gives an example that the warrants division executes warrants daily. He estimates 15-20 a day. They may sometimes go to serve a warrant and see that there is a felony. They are trained and able to make arrests even on speeding. All of his deputies have body cameras and all their vehicles have dashboard cameras.

Mr. Taliaferro asks that the majority of time that his officers spend in the field is spent serving warrants either solo or in concert with other agencies, and if so what is the percentage breakdown of your public engagements between high risk or low risk. His deputies have made arrests even on 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder arrests, 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder when they do for a misdemeanor. They get a lot of intel, narcotics, bombs, flashbangs. They had a hostage situation recently and he tries to make sure that his

deputies are equipped with the appropriate body armour and tools to be prepared for situations that can escalate.

Marshall Caldwell thanks President Chavez and Commissioner Epperson for the invitation for his office to participate today.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Dr. Wilson reminded the Commissioners that the May monthly Financial report was emailed to them. Mr. Jackson asked for a quick overview of the May financials with some context. Ms. Barnett responds that the report is comprehensive and could take a while to summarize, but most of the concern is probably with revenue streams and she has been keeping up with that. Not the property tax, because they haven't gotten the assessment yet. The Oil and Gas and Riverboat trends are that Riverboat has gone down, but Oil & Gas has been going up. Sales Tax in May is down 14% from last year. Video Poker is holding steady. 45% decline in Riverboat, 3% overall decline in sales tax and an increase in Oil & Gas. Dr. Wilson adds that he and Robert Glass have discussed the increase in drilling activity in the Parish which account for the additional oil and gas revenue. Mr. Jackson asks if they are worried or hopeful. Dr. Wilson shares that their reserve trust fund has enabled us to sustain even in a downturn because we have saved for moments like this.
- Mr. Johnson asked the Administration to provide an update on tax incentives, compliance and employment/layoff situation at Bentler Steel. Dr. Wilson responds that he did receive a letter from them that the layoffs were temporary, and says that he will come back with additional information. Mr. Johnson asks that he bring the same kind of update regarding Libby Glass.

#### **CERTIFICATE FOR TELECONFERENCE**

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana has issued Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2020, stating that, due to the current Public Health emergency declared in the Governor's Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020, and citing the provisions of La. R.S. 29:721, et seq., granting him the authority to control the "ingress and egress to and from a disaster, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor, in Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2020, has limited all gatherings of 10 or more people, for public safety purposes; and,

WHEREAS, Governor has issued a general stay at home order "unless performing an essential activity," 33 JBE 2020, Section 3; and,

WHEREAS, attendance at a Caddo Parish Commission Regular Session meeting is not stated in the list of essential activities, listed in 33 JBE 2020, Section 3; and,

WHEREAS, the usual conduct of the meeting would require travel and the presence of a number of persons in excess of ten (10); and,

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State, in Proclamation Number 30 JBE 2020, Section 4, issued on March 16, 2020, has invoked the aforementioned statutes authorizing him to allow attendance at essential governmental meetings via teleconference or video conference during the pendency of this emergency; and,

THEREFORE, the Caddo Parish Commission hereby certifies that it will not be able to obtain a quorum and convene a meeting in a public forum on June 15th, 2020 due to the Governor's proclamations, and will be required to meet by video conference, and, if necessary teleconference, on that date as allowed by law and the Proclamations of the Governor listed above. Date: June 11, 2020

/s/Mario Chavez, President

#### **COMMISSION REMARKS**

- Mr. Epperson said that June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1950 was the start of the Korean War, let us not forget. Also, prayers go out to the Reverend Wilburt Dawson's family. Rev. Dawson passed away this week and was a strong individual in the community.
- Mr. Atkins wanted to go on record that the death of George Floyd was a regrettable tragedy and hates to see that type of thing happen in any community and is thankful that it hasn't happened in ours recently. I hope it will not happen ever again. He expresses support for fair and equitable policing practices for all people and fair and equitable treatment of all people and fair and equitable opportunities for all people. That being said, there are a couple of items on this agenda that he will not be able to support, and several that he will, but he wanted to provide context.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts reminds the Juvenile Justice Committee members that they have a Juvenile Justice Committee Meeting on Thursday at 1:30pm by Zoom.
- Mr. Chavez expresses sympathy towards Mr. Epperson on the passing of Rev. Dawson, and shares that while he did not know him personally, he knew both of his sons. One is a football coach at Evangel and he served with his other son in the army and judging by their character he gathers that they had an excellent father.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that the introduction of the authorization of Ordinance No. 5960 of 2020, an ordinance amending the budget of estimated revenues and expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to provide an appropriation for the Salvation Army's Boys and Girls Club for funds remaining at December 31, 2019 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Burrell said the Boy's Club is in his district and has a very fine facility. He continues that they had a transition of a new lieutenant. During that transition the program director did not make them aware of the funds they had on hand. They also had to shut down some programs. Since Covid, they really need the funds and have been serving food to sheltered families and the homeless. They do a great job and the \$10,000 that is left is left will be put to good use. He says that he'll be working closely with them to make sure that they'll be accountable.

Mr. Atkins said we've already allocated these funds, just not spent them. He doesn't want to motivate people to have to spend everything or lose it. So he is supportive of extending them some additional time. He thinks they do a great job and doesn't have a problem with spending the money that was previously allocated.

Lazarus informed the body that he would be abstaining because as much as he loves the Salvation Army, his son is on the Board and he doesn't want to appearance of any impropriety despite the position being unpaid.

Mr. Hopkins asked Legal if the money ended at the end of 2019 and if they had applied for 2020 funds. Atty Frazier said that they were allocated 2020 funds but since they don't do fund carryover, the money that they had in 2019 would have to be reappropriated. Mr. Hopkins asked for clarification about their 2020 allocation. Atty Frazier responded that didn't have the exact number in front of her and she believes that they are going to be voting soon to suspend payment of those funds. She further clarified that this would be an increase in the amount of money currently available to them. Mr. Jackson clarified that they agreed to suspend the Salvation Army and the Boys and Girls club for 2020, so it is more of a continuation than an increase.

Mr. Burrell reiterated that these organizations are spending funds because of Covid. Their expenditures and services have increased.

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, Jackson, Johnson, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: Lazarus (1).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Resolution No. 41 of 2020, a resolution amending and reenacting resolution 34 of 2020 of the Caddo Parish Commission adding Legal Aid of North Louisiana to exceptions of the suspended 2020 NGO Program and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Jackson said that this is similar to when we took out the Boys and Girls club last time. I have asked the Administration to confirm that this program will be reimbursable under the CARES act. This was not something adopted in our 2020 budget. He believes this will be reimbursable because it helps those laid off because of Covid will get assistance for workforce retention.

Taliaferro asked Mr. Jackson to clarify what services Legal Aid will provide. Jackson responded that they walk those persons through the process of expungement and there are fees associated with the process that can be prohibitive when someone is out of work. Legal Aid is donating their services free of charge, valued at around \$30,000. This offsets the cost to the Clerk of Court, Caddo Sheriff and District Attorney's offices. They are allowed to issue waivers and Legal Aid will coordinate the process.

Hopkins asked if this puts Resolution 5943 from February back in place. Mr. Jackson confirmed that that it is similar.

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, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Resolution No. 42 of 2020, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to request and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board And The Office Of Mineral Resources to accept nominations and advertise for oil, gas and mineral leases, accept bids, and award and execute oil, gas and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be advanced to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that Resolution No. 43 of 2020, a resolution of support for the Federal Justice In Policing Act of 2020 and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Epperson asked everyone to click on the policy research and welcome outside research before Thursday's vote.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 44 of 2020, a resolution designating June 19th of each year as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in Caddo Parish, in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date that has become widely associated with the emancipation of slavery in the United States and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Jackson said that this is good to make Juneteenth a standard Holiday. This promotes education of learning about the history of the holiday as part of our heritage. There is an emphasis on doing more to bring attention to holidays like this and Kwanza. It is more than the day that individuals learned late that they had been freed, the calvary that was tasked with notifying them was late. He'd like to see Caddo play a role in educating the public about this important day.

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, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 45 of 2020, a resolution urging and requesting law enforcement agencies and heads of governing bodies within Caddo Parish to retrain officers regarding chokeholds and restraints and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

**Friendly amendment by Mr. Hopkins.** Mr. Hopkins shared that the Chief of Police is an independent, elected position in Vivian and Blanchard that are independent of the Mayor. Mr. Johnson accepted that as a friendly amendment which was adopted by acclamation.

Mr. Taliaferro asked as a former law enforcement officer, to his knowledge Police Departments are not taught or trained in chokeholds, they are trained in lateral vascular constraint/ or a carotid restraint. It was once an apprehension technique, but better tools are available now and this is no longer taught at an apprehension technique. He's hesitant to take it off the table as it is used as a last resort when an officer is at risk of losing their life. It usually happens when they are on the ground fighting. Chokeholds get confused with lateral vascular restraint. I'd say it should be reserved for when an officer is fighting for their life.

Mr. Johnson acknowledged that while the training may be as he Mr. Taliaferro described, during the heat of a situation steps are skipped. This resolution is trying to eliminate the chokehold while working up to lateral restraint. We had a situation where a training officer said that they train at the Shreveport academy to do this. It was on social media. If that training officer was bold enough to say that, then we need this resolution to encourage them to either removed this particular part of it or do away with the practice altogether. We've had many incidents where people have been put in chokeholds in situations that didn't appear to warrant the practice. Citizens are calling out for reform and while we don't have a law enforcement agency under our umbrella, but this is our way of encouraging better practices.

Mr. Taliaferro responded that he was familiar with the training officer who said that during the administration of the lateral vascular restraint that during the heat of battle, things can go awry and it turns into a chokehold. The incident that we were referring to was neither a chokehold or a lateral vascular constraint, it was someone's knee placed directly on the neck of a suspect who was already in custody and to his knowledge didn't require any use of additional force. He agrees that was very unprofessional and the officer will be tried and receive due justice. The sleeper/lvnr/any hold that causes a person to pass out, there are safety procedures to wake that person back up once the danger has ceased. It is not in the force continuum, and his training has never been modified during his career in law enforcement. It is only used when an officer is in danger of losing their life and no other method in the force continuum is available to them.

Mr. Johnson expresses that Mr. Taliaferro is probably accustomed to perfect police protocols, but growing up in the inner city or the hood as we would say, I've seen that chokehold put on individuals as young as 16 years old. He continues, 'What I have seen in my eyes, as a non-Police professional, but just a child who growing up in the inner city, I have seen that used when there was no threat to the officers safety. Whether in George Floyd's case or another, there have been deaths resulting from chokeholds. Shreveport has not banned it, and I think it needs to be Parish wide.

Mr. Atkins said that he can support this resolution and the resolution is intelligently structured and responsibly presented. It makes reference to retraining officers regarding chokeholds and restraints and he thinks we all can agree that given recent and past events, it is an appropriate time to take a look at how chokeholds are used and if they are to be used at all, that they be used safely.

Mr. Burrell asked Mr. Taliaferro if there are various levels of apprehension techniques before reaching a lateral vascular or chokehold. If not, then it sounds like it is left up to the holder. Mr. Taliaferro responded that while he was not a training instructor in defensive tactics, he has taken defensive tactics training for years and it changes each year. They have a force continuum that helps every post certified department determine how to use force. The only time that he has used an Lateral vascular restraint is when all other methods of subduing a suspect have failed, for instance if someone is trying to get your weapon, mace, etc. He doesn't want an officer to not have that technique available to them when needed. The practice has a place, but a normal apprehension is not the place for it. He's not a proponent of a chokehold, unless every other method has been exhausted and failed and you may be outnumbered, but only the officer can know if their life is threatened. The officer has to live by that during the investigation. He just wants to make sure that an officer protecting their own life isn't convicted of using this technique. Mr. Burrell points out that an officer could be afraid of a person they are trying to apprehend, or feel outmatched in height or strength, even if their life is not in any way in jeopardy. That could cause someone to lose their life because of fear or lack of strength.

Mr. Cawthorne said he feels consistent with Commissioner Johnson's comments and he knows that the George Floyd murder is on everyone's mind, but as it relates to Mr. Johnson's resolution, he says that the Eric Gardner case is the perfect example of a chokehold gone awry with 4 officer standing there and no need. The suspect was 6'4", the officer was 5'4"- making it a classic example of chokehold gone awry.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that around the world there have been legislation put into place that is proven with collected data that new levels of accountability and the banning of chokeholds. She asks that Caddo joins in these and supports this legislation.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Cawthorne. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (10). NAYS: Chavez, Taliaferro (2). ABSENT (0). ABSTAIN (0).

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, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus and Young (10). NAYS: Chavez, Taliaferro (2). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Resolution 46 of 2020 urging and requesting the Louisiana Legislature to review Louisiana law regarding sexual conduct between law enforcement officers and detainees, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that she had originally introduced this legislation in 2018 and she wants to thank those Commissioners who supported that resolution. Louisiana has recently gained national attention as one of the 35 state that currently has this law. Louisiana law protects inmates, not detainees. Commissioners have an obligation to protect citizens from unethical behavior and she asked for support and remains optimistic that the Louisiana Legislature will take this up.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Resolution No. 47 of 2020, a resolution urging and requesting the State Legislature and local Caddo Parish governments to pass legislation addressing law enforcement officers' wearing and use of body cameras and use of dashboard cameras, to ask all law enforcement agencies within Caddo Parish to administratively implement the requirements of said legislation, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Johnson said that he researched similar legislation across the country and states that we just heard that Marshall Caldwell's office already has body and dashboard cameras. He expresses that we have this across Caddo and across the state. In the recent 2 cases the footage from the body cams hasn't been released, and from the DA's office there is a lot of stuff that is missing from the reports

from the cases of the 2 men who recently died in Police custody in Shreveport. This protects the officers and those being detained or apprehended.

Mr. Jackson wanted to make sure that the Constables were included in this as they are sort of under our umbrella. Mr. Johnson confirmed that it does include the Constables.

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).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Resolution No. 48 of 2020, a resolution supporting the Federal government's efforts to rename military facilities named after Confederate soldiers and remove Confederate symbols from the Capitol through the National Defense Authorization Act and other means, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be advanced to Thursday's Agenda.

Mr. Epperson asked that everyone would educate themselves about this before Thursday. There are about 20-23 bases that fits that category.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to authorize reappointment of Mr. Miles Turner, Mr. Jackie Tipton, Mr. Charles R. Merriman, Mr. Howard Clayton, & Mrs. Alma Petteway to the Sewerage District No. 8 Board, terms to expire 6/19/24* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

At this time, Mr. Epperson'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).

At This time, the Commission discussed an immediate upgrade of audio/visual and/or telecommunications systems in the meeting Chamber. Mr. Epperson has shared with the administration, that our equipment is obsolete and it would be in our best interest to update it. If we can't do it in house, we can go with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor who can give us a seamless system. He expressed that we can't predict what needs changing times will present us and we need to upgrade to be prepared and hopefully these expenses could be reimbursable through the CARES act.

Mr. Hopkins points out that there is a Government Plaza Chamber Standing Committee and they could look into this. Mr. Everson confirmed that that committee was meeting later this week.

Mr. Burrell recalled the committee when the chamber was it was first set up, and he expressed that the city seems to have taken a lead in the past.

Mr. Johnson expresses that while both parties have an equal share in the past perhaps one lead and the other lagged, but we need to lead this conversation and make sure that our needs are expressed.

Mr. Burrell acknowledged this was a good development in the direction of the Chamber committee.

Mr. Epperson then asked if there was a situation with some masks that we agreed to pay on behalf of the city due to their fiscal status? Dr. Wilson said that it wasn't masks, but Caddo paid \$21,000 for the disinfection of the whole building and Caddo took the lead. Mr. Epperson said that Mr. Hopkins suggestion of the committee hit the nail on the head.

Mr. Jackson added that wifi/internet capabilities in the chamber be improved.

Mr. Chavez invited anyone else to submit topics for Thursday's meeting to him or the other members of that committee.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Resolution No. 49 of 2020, a resolution supporting the renaming of Fort Polk, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be advanced to Thursday's Agenda.

Mr. Epperson explains that the intent is that in the event that the base is to be renamed, that it be named on behalf of a Louisiana recipient of the Medal of Honor from the Vietnam War era. Mr. Chavez asked if Mr. Epperson was a Medal of Honor recipient and joked that a Ft. Epperson could be in the future.

At this time, Mr. Epperson'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).

### **COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Burrell shared sympathy for Rev. Henry James who passed away last week due to Covid. He expresses that we've lost a lot of African American Ministers locally that played a prominent role in moving our community ahead. Mr. Jackson clarified the Rev.'s name and that he was with Magnolia. Mr. Burrell said that he was instrumental in Allendale.

Mr. Burrell also said that he had sent an email regarding a meeting asking Chief [Sheriff] Prator for a meeting and the Clerk is rescheduling that meeting. Mr. Burrell has another obligation to the Red River Waterway Commission out of town on the day the meeting was scheduled. He said that he and the Sheriff had had a long conversation and he expressed a desire to improve the relationship and between the Commission and the Sheriff's office. He also wants to invite him in a public forum because as was seen with the Marshall, commissioners feed on the questions and get a better feel for everyone's role.

Mr. Burrell also discussed his legislation when he was a State Rep in 2015 to allow Fireworks sales for Juneteenth. His legislation allowed them from June 16<sup>th</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup>. This was done to better educate and involve people in learning the importance of Juneteenth. He had more bipartisan support for it than he thought he would have. It is HB 298, Act 67 of the regular session of 2015.

- Mr. Jackson noted that on Thursday Chancellor John Pierre from Southern University Law School will join us to give a formal announcement, a momentous occasion. The Board of Regents will give the greenlight to a law school in Shreveport on Wednesday. This won't happen overnight, but phased over 2-3 years in Downtown Shreveport. We've supported that for years and Southern University's Board has voted to move forward with it as well. We'll put together a working group, and some staff has been hired already, there is no turning back now and they'll need our continued support.

His other response is to piggyback on what Commissioner Burrell said about Juneteenth. He said, "I would question anybody's motives, particularly African Americans, who are out there complaining about the parish recognizing Juneteenth as an official holiday no more than we recognize any other holidays in the parish, educating people about what we do. And for folks like Jon Glover, her opposition and her concern, to me, does not matter, because she is paid for and bought. And I would encourage her to look up who Shirley Chisholm is since she doesn't know much of her history. Because she can learn a lot from Shirley Chisholm just because Jon Glover is paid for, bought, rented, whatever. And there's nothing that she can tell me or explain to me about Juneteenth or any other holiday or any other day that is designed to talk about and reflect and commemorate the freedom and independence of African Americans. She's probably the first one in line buying firecrackers & barbecue on July 4, but here she is today being paid and put up to object to Juneteenth. Your own heritage. I wonder if she got any mirrors in her house. And so I resent the email that I just got from Ms. Jon Glover objecting to and I want to put that on the record, objecting to the parish recognizing every year, Juneteenth. That's not something that I'm going to sit back and be passive about. And I've sat back and watched her be a political prop and a political act for folks out there, but that's something that I'm going to speak up and speak loudly about, because our ancestors have fought and died and bled in the country and to have people pay that kind of game is unacceptable, in my opinion. I'm glad that we moved in that the resolution forward and I would ask us to consider adopting it on Thursday. And If Ms. Glover has an issue with it, I would strongly encourage her to dive into history, because I believe she was a former educator, to go back and get educated on the history of Juneteenth. Thank you Commissioners."

- Mr. Burrell concurred that it is time to move on celebrating things like this, especially in the midst of Covid. There are other things working to move our community ahead in economic development. There is letter, from Congressman Mike Johnson and a letter that many leaders have signed off on supporting I-49. We could use a shot in the arm after covid. Mr. Burrell then recalled that he received criticism for his passage of legislation that acknowledged Juneteenth, but times change.

- Mr. Cawthorne briefly provides context related to Juneteenth and expresses that in the past people have put Juneteenth against the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. That was a narrative that was a thought at one time, now as we move forward to freedom there doesn't seem to be an objection to this. He doesn't see any problem with Black and white people to celebrate Juneteenth. The sins of the past need to be put on the table to move forward with the dream of the American melting pot. African Americans can celebrate 4<sup>th</sup> of July just as others can celebrate Juneteenth.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Authorize Introduction of Ordinance No. 5959 of 2020, An ordinance amending the budget of estimated revenues and expenditures for the Oil And Gas Fund for the year 2020 to provide an appropriation for the purchase of mask to combat COVID-19 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*



- *Confirm appointment to the Zoning Board Of Appeals. Term to expire April 30, 2025. (Commission to Select One)*
  1. *Alan Berry*
  2. *Huey Horn*
  3. *James Carstensen*

*(Postponed from May 21st, 2020 Regular Session)*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

/s/Jeff Everson  
Jeff Everson  
Commission Clerk