

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 17th DAY OF JUNE, 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. Atkins, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Johnson (1).

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Lynn Stevens came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

I am the director of Workforce Development at Goodwill Industries. I think that all of you know. We're here today—you actually have a resolution that you guys are considering today. It's number 55. Commissioner Lazarus, it's your resolution. And I just felt like they you needed to hear the facts from Goodwill Industries. In regards to the JRI funding that comes to Caddo Parish, because Goodwill Industries is the recipient of those funds. We're in our third year of the contract. So, we were one of the first agencies awarded funding through the JRI Reinvestment Act. And so, we were one of five parishes. We received \$388,00 a year to work on JRI for individuals getting out. And it's a collaborative grant. So, we are the program managers, the grant actually went to United Way, which at the time I wrote the grant, because that's where I worked. But it's with Easter Seals, Louisiana, they're a part of it. Volunteers of America is a part of it. And then Goodwill Industries. So it's a very collaborative grant, we work together, we didn't want to duplicate services, we have great services that exists in this community. So we brought everybody together to work on the most urgent needs, and barriers when individuals get out of prison. And so this grant has been working wonderful. And I brought with me today, Pat Williams, she is actually the program manager, and has been the program manager since day one. And she wanted to share—you guys actually helped write a letter of support a couple years ago in regards to the grant, we came back a couple years ago, pre COVID. And giving your one report, we'd like to give you a little bit about year two, but she also is going to give you the current stats, because the statistics for what we see in this community and with our grant, it is working. And so I know the concern is about violent crimes. But I'd like Pat to kind of step up to the mic and give you a little bit of a report in regards to that. So you'll have some facts. Our grant is unique. We're one of the only ones in the area or in the state. So that have received the funds that are functioning very effectively. The Department of Corrections will actually be here next week. They've been up here every quarter to look at our program and they're trying to get others in the state to replicate our model. Because it's a very good best practice that we have implemented here.

Pat Williams came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

So good afternoon, everyone and thank you for allowing me to speak today about the exit 318 program for Caddo and Bossier Parishes. As Lynn said, we are in the third year of our grant for Caddo Parish. In the current year, we have served 79 men and women. And these are not first time offenders. These are what we call the hardest of the hard to serve, they've probably been in and out of the system since they were juveniles. Some of them have done decades. The offenses that they have committed range from drug offenses to violent offenses to sex offenders, and we have served them all. Again, in the current year, we have served 79 men and women. Out of the 79, only one has recidivated in the year 2021. In 2020, for Caddo, we served 135 men and women, all with the same background—five recidivated. That's about a 5.38% recidivism rate, which is considerably less than what the State is. The State's recidivism rate for a second year, meaning they've been out of prison for two years—it's 26%. Our grant is totally holistic. Easter Seals provides case management services in medical, Medicaid, any kind of physical health, mental health, substance abuse, inpatient, outpatient treatment; Goodwill provides job placement services, and that includes anything that they need regarding employment, driver's license, state IDs, birth certificates, Social Security cards, clothing, food. We've even paid for prescriptions, VOA Volunteers of America helps with health. In this program, the grant can pay up to six months of their rent, security deposits, application fees, furniture, utilities—even if they've been incarcerated come out and they have a past due balance SWEPCO, Department of water, gas, the grant helps take care of those past due balances. We also work with the Office of Motor Vehicles. As we know, when someone get incarcerated, if they have a vehicle, insurance lapse fees accumulate. It doesn't matter if you've been locked up or not those fees still accumulate. Obviously, motor vehicles has allowed for them to have a one year payment plan. Goodwill pays the first month, ensuring that they have a bank account and a debit card that they can withdraw those funds from. So we have really been successful up here. The challenges that they have when they come out is employment. Although that has improved, and that's one of the pauses from COVID. Employers are looking to hire anyone, regardless of a criminal background. Housing still continues to be an issue.

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to adopt the Regular Session Minutes from June 3, 2021. Motion carried.*

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to englobe and adopt the following Special Resolutions:*

- *Special Resolution of Remembrance of Pastor Johnny Arnold*
- *Special Proclamation recognizing Pride Month*
- *Special Proclamation declaring July 2021 Parks & Recreation Month*
- *Special Resolution honoring and recognizing Mayor Lorenz "Lo" Walker for his many years of service as the Mayor of Bossier City as well as his service on behalf of the community*
- *Special Resolution expressing gratitude to Dave Dennis for his contributions to the Civil Rights Movement*

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, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & REMEMBRANCE PASTOR JOHNNY ARNOLD

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

WHEREAS, Pastor Johnny Arnold was born as the sixteenth child of Richard Arnold and Salina Lighty on August 19, 1937. After graduating from Butler High School in Hartsville, South Carolina, he pursued a life of service, family, faith and continued education. He served his country in the United States Army from 1959 to 1967 when he was honorably discharged. He continued his education with studies that included a Certificate of Welding from Albany Area Technical School in Albany, GA; a Certification as an Insurance Adjuster from National Home Study Council in Washington, D.C.; and even his studies at the National Baptist College in Nashville, TN. These studies led him to a career that included employment at Aero Commander/Ayers Cooperation for several years, and later retiring from the Dougherty County School System Transportation Department. Arnold's heart for service also saw him volunteer at Turner and Sylvandale Elementary Schools, as well as the Turner Job Corp Center; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Arnold's dedication to service and career were outmatch only by his dedication to his family and God. He married Barbara in 1960 and their blessed union of 56 years produced 2 sons: Patrick and Tony. Both sons would go on to marry and with their spouse allow Pastor Arnold to know the joy of being a Grandparent and Great Grandparent. So close was their bond that when Johnnie and Barbara renewed their vows on the occasion of their 50th anniversary, Patrick served as Best Man, Tony officiated the service as the Presiding Minister and their wives were both bridesmaids; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Arnold began his walk with Christ at an early age being reared in Anitoch Baptist Church in McBee, South Carolina and would go on Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia. Pastor Arnold was ordained in December of 1976 and guided many churches, including Mr. Moriah Baptist Church in Putney, GA and Greater St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Waycross, GA. He also served in rolls such as State Missions Director of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.; Moderator of the Fowltown Missionary Baptist Association; President of the Blue Springs Missionary Baptist Association; and Secretary of the Albany Baptist Minister's Conference; and a certified Chaplain for Health Care Ministries; and

WHEREAS, Arnold was called home on June 4th, 2021. In going home to be with his God, Pastor Arnold will also be united with his loving wife, parents and siblings and leaves behind a legacy of family, faith and service that includes a blessed family that includes esteemed Caddo Parish residents Tony Arnold and his wife Regina; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby convey its deepest and most sincere expressions of gratitude and appreciation to PASTOR JOHNNY ARNOLD for the invaluable contributions he made during many years of selfless service to this world.

Mr. Steven Knight, Vice President of PACE, thanked the Commission for recognizing Pride Month. He also presented the Commission with a Pride Flag to display at a Commission building.

PROCLAMATION

PRIDE MONTH

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is pleased to extend appropriate recognition to organizations which strive to make a positive impact on our community; and

WHEREAS, equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination are among the basic, inalienable rights of every person, necessary for the development and exercise of our most vital capacities and preconditions of human flourishing; and

WHEREAS, our nation was founded upon and is guided by a set of principles that include every person has been created equal and that they have the right to the pursuit of happiness and that each shall be accorded the full recognition and protection of law; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish has become stronger by the rich diversity of ethnic, cultural, racial, gender and sexual identities of its residents, all of which contribute to the vibrant character of our parish; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish is home to PACE, People Acting for Change and Equality, an organization of individuals working to ensure the full and equal recognition and protection of the fundamental rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender(LGBT) people and their families; and

WHEREAS, PACE was instrumental in crafting and passage of Shreveport's Fairness Ordinances in 2014 banning discrimination based on race, sex, disability, age, ancestry, national origin, political or religious identification, gender identity and sexual orientation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 17th day of June, 2021 that it did hereby proclaim June 2021 as:

'LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER PRIDE MONTH'

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, extending to all appreciation and gratitude for their service to this country, state and parish for its efforts to focus the attention of the community upon those individuals and to their cause, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all residents are encouraged to celebrate justice & equality for all persons.

PROCLAMATION PARKS & RECREATION MONTH

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs are an integral part of communities throughout this country, including Parish of Caddo; and

WHEREAS, our parks and recreation are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our communities, ensuring the health of all citizens, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community and region; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs build healthy, active communities that aid in the prevention of chronic disease, provide therapeutic recreation services for those who are mentally or physically disabled, and also improve the mental and emotional health of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs increase a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation areas are fundamental to the environmental well-being of our community; and

WHEREAS, parks and natural recreation areas improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers to development, and produce habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our community and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month; and

WHEREAS, Parish of Caddo recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does

hereby proclaim July 2021 as:

'Parks & Recreation Month'

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens to join with the Parish in recognition of this important month.

Mr. Epperson said that he will be presenting this proclamation to the Mayor Walker at his retirement ceremony. He thanked the Commission for honoring Mayor Walker with this resolution.

**RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION
MAYOR LORENZ "LO" WALKER**

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

WHEREAS, Lo Walker is and has been an iconic personality in Northwest Louisiana who has contributed indelibly through his more than 36 years of service to Bossier City, 16 years as Chief Administrative Officer and 16 years as Mayor; his military career and work advocating for Veterans and the Military; his commitment to innovation and progress that has benefited all of Northwest Louisiana and his generous, tenacious, humorous and gracious personality; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Lo Walker's contributions are too many to fully list, additional roles include his service as Executive Director of the Bossier Civic Center, Past President of the Louisiana Conference of Mayors, Past President of the I-69 Highway Coalition, Past President of the Ark-La-Tex Chapter of the Retired Officers Association, Chairman of the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments, the Coordinating and Development Corporation and as a Board member for the State Fair of Louisiana, The Better Business Bureau of Shreveport- Bossier, Barksdale Forward, and the Veterans Memorial Steering Committee to name just a few; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Walker is a native of Shreveport, La. And graduated from Fair Park High School and continued his studies by earning a cum laude degree at Louisiana Tech where he was named the Outstanding Business School Graduate and Distinguished Military Graduate and graduated as an officer in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Lo Walker's distinguished 30-year career with the USAF concluded with Walker ranking as a Colonel in 1986 after a career that saw him hold the rare distinction of being both a Command Pilot and Master Parachutist at the same time and decorations that include 2 Legions of Merit, 2 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 13 Air Medals, the Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, Walker continued a life of service after his Military retirement, be it through business or civic involvement or his long-standing leadership for Bossier City and by default the surrounding area. Walker's presence in the regional leadership was marked by his tenacity, effectiveness and an affable personality as quick with a joke as he is with a solution to a problem; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal session convened this 17th day of June, 2021, that it does hereby convey its deepest and most sincere recognition and appreciation to Mayor Lorenz "Lo" Walker.

**RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION
DAVE DENNIS**

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

WHEREAS, Dave Dennis has made an indelible contribution to improving the lives of generations of people through his vital role in the Civil Rights movement, his work in Education and his many professional and civic accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dennis drew upon his experiences growing up in rural Omega, La. and urban Shreveport, La. to motivate his professional development which would continue to Dillard University, and later the University of Michigan Law School, and these experiences also helped to prepare him to be a powerful leader as his Civic involvement developed while he was a student at Dillard; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dennis is often noted in history for his roll in the Civil Rights movement alongside peers like Bob Moses and Medgar Evers where he was an original Freedom Rider, a Director of Mississippi's Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), a field secretary for the Southern Education Defense Fund for Racial Equality, a Co-Director at the Council of Federated Organizations and famously organized, along with Moses, the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964, and played a significant roll in dozens of boycotts, sit-ins, demonstrations and other initiatives advocating for Civil Justice; and

WHEREAS, Dennis continued his passion for learning by attending Michigan Law School and returning to Louisiana to establish a law practice in Lafayette, La where he would practice until a celebration of their contributions to the Civil Rights movement brought he and Bob Moses back together and ignited a passion to promote equality through education. Through the Algebra Project, his time as CEO of Positive Innovations, Inc. and finally as founder and Director of the Southern Initiative Algebra Project Dennis has advocated for, developed and implemented increased access to education that has improved results for students in over 20 school districts across 7 states; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish continues to struggle with the social injustices of the past, but takes great pride those who took those injustices and developed an ability to help better the lives of generations of people who can cast votes and compute information that previous generations did not think possible; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal session convened this 17th day of June, 2021, that it does hereby convey its deepest and most sincere recognition and appreciation to Dave Dennis.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING ORDINANCES

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

- *Ordinance No. 6072 of 2021, an ordinance setting the Parish millage for the purpose of paying principal and interest, due in 2021 on outstanding Parish bond issues and to instruct the Assessor to include said millage on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2021, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6073 of 2021, an ordinance to set the General-Purpose Millage and Special Purpose Millages providing for millage rate adjustments, as allowed by Article VII, Section 23 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and LA R.S. 47:1705 (B), levying and imposing taxes and assessments for 2021 on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6074 of 2021, an ordinance setting the assessment of property classified as timberlands and to instruct the Assessor to include said assessment on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2021, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6075 of 2021, an ordinance to adopt the values fixed, or to be fixed by the Louisiana Tax Commission on all assessments for railways and other public service corporations, and to instruct the Assessor to extend such assessments and values on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2021, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6076 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation of \$5,000 to conduct a training program for Caddo Parish Fire Districts, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6077 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation of \$100,000 for five D3 Edge Security Trailers and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6078 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation of \$25,000 for a wastewater program for COVID-19, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6079 of 2021, an ordinance to accept the streets in Blanchard Lake Estates Subdivision Unit 2 & 3 into the Parish of Caddo Road System, 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.

ORDINANCES (for final passage)

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that Ordinance No. 6072 of 2021, an ordinance setting the parish millage for the purpose of paying principal and interest, due in 2021 on outstanding parish bond issues and to instruct the Assessor to include said millage on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2021, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to englobo and adopt the following ordinances:*

- *Ordinance No. 6072 of 2021, an ordinance setting the Parish millage for the purpose of paying principal and interest, due in 2021 on outstanding Parish bond issues and to instruct the Assessor to include said millage on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2021, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6073 of 2021, an ordinance to set the General-Purpose Millage and Special Purpose Millages providing for millage rate adjustments, as allowed by Article VII, Section 23 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and LA R.S. 47:1705 (B), levying and imposing taxes and assessments for 2021 on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6074 of 2021, an ordinance setting the assessment of property classified as timberlands and to instruct the Assessor to include said assessment on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2021, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6075 of 2021, an ordinance to adopt the values fixed, or to be fixed by the Louisiana Tax Commission on all assessments for railways and other public service corporations, and to instruct the Assessor to extend such assessments and values on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2021, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Young wanted to know if the Commission had to adjust the millages this year. Mrs. Bryant explained that last year, the millages were adjusted due to it being a reassessment year. She also mentioned that happens every four years. Mrs. Bryant also explained that they did not have a decrease on property taxes and the revenue replacement numbers are not included.

Mr. Hopkins pointed out that this is not a roll forward or a roll back.

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, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

ORDINANCE NO. 6072 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE PARISH MILLAGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST, DUE IN 2021 ON OUTSTANDING PARISH BOND ISSUES AND TO INSTRUCT THE ASSESSOR TO INCLUDE SAID MILLAGE ON THE TAX ROLL OF THE PARISH OF CADDO FOR THE YEAR 2021, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2007, the Parish of Caddo issued general obligation bonds in the total aggregate sum of \$10,000,000; and

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2008, the Parish of Caddo issued general obligation bonds in the total aggregate sum of \$10,000,000; and

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2009, the Parish of Caddo issued general obligation bonds in the total aggregate sum of \$10,000,000; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2015, the Parish of Caddo sold Refunding Bonds in the total aggregate sum of \$6,850,000; and

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2015 the Parish of Caddo sold Refunding Bonds in the total aggregate sum of \$6,345,000; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2016 the Parish of Caddo sold Refunding Bonds in the total

aggregatesum of \$7,250,000; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to levy a millage tax for the year 2021 in order to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, which will fall due in the year 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal, and regular session convened, that a special tax of 1.5 mills on the dollar on assessed valuation of all property subject to taxation within the whole of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, be and the same is hereby levied for the year 2021, for the purpose of paying principal and interest which will become due in the year 2020 on the aforesaid public improvement bonds and refunding bonds.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Commission Clerk shall give notice of this ordinance to the Assessor of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and instruct him to levy and assess each tax as set forth herein for the year 2021.

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 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 6073 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE GENERAL PURPOSE AND SPECIAL PURPOSE MILLAGES PROVIDING FOR MILLAGE RATE ADJUSTMENTS, AS ALLOWED BY ARTICLE VII, SECTION 23 OF THE LOUISIANA CONSTITUTION OF 1974 AND LA R.S. 47:1705 (B), LEVYING AND IMPOSING TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS FOR 2021 ON ALL THE PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION IN THE PARISH OF CADDO, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Caddo Parish Commission (the "Commission") acting as the governing authority of Caddo Parish, Louisiana (the "Parish"), to levy various taxes for the year 2021; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to adjust the Parish millages as a result of the quadrennial reappraisal and valuation of the property subject to taxation within the Parish, in proportion to the increase in the 2021 taxable assessed valuation of the Parish;

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held by the Commission on the subject of the proposed millage adjustment in accordance with the open meetings law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and LA R.S. 47:1705(B).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal and regular session convened, that the following general purpose and special millages (that is, fractional mills on the dollar) on the assessed valuation of all property subject to taxation in the whole of Caddo Parish, Louisiana be and the same are hereby levied at the following adjusted rates for the year 2021, in accordance with Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and LA R.S. 47:1705, as applicable:

	<u>2021 Levy Rate</u>	<u>Maximum Authorized Rate</u>
General:		
General Alimony —For all property lying outside of Cities and towns, as described below	6.13 mills	6.13 mills
Exempted Municipalities —For all property lying within the confines of incorporated cities and towns having a population in excess of 1,000 and which maintain a system of street paving and those being		

Shreveport, Vivian, and Bossier City	3.06 mills	3.06 mills
Special Purpose:		
Public Health:		
For the creation and support of public health centers in the Parish	.88 mills	.88 mills
For the maintenance and operation of public health centers in the Parish and portion rededicated for payment of mandatory costs of the criminal justice system	1.29 mills	1.29 mills
Shreve Memorial Library:		
For the acquiring, equipping, construction, improving, maintaining and operating the public library system	4.71 mills	4.71 mills
For the maintenance and operation of Parish library facilities and portion rededicated to payment of mandatory costs of the criminal justice system	4.63 mills	4.63 mills
Juvenile Court:		
For the maintenance and operation for the Juvenile court, and juvenile detention home Facilities	2.00 mills	2.00 mills
Detention Facilities:		
For the maintenance and operation of detention facilities and portion rededicated for payment of mandatory costs of the criminal justice system	5.48 mills	5.48 mills
Courthouse Maintenance:		
For the maintenance and operation of parish courthouse and other building facilities	2.76 mills	2.76 mills
Public Works:		
For the maintenance and operation of road, Bridge, drainage, garbage collection, and Mandatory costs of the criminal justice system	5.92 mills	5.92 mills
Public Facilities:		
For the maintenance and operation of public facilities, specifically road band bridge, parks and recreation, garbage collection and drainage	.84 mills	.84 mills
Biomedical Research:		
For the promotion of economic development through the Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana and portion rededicated to mandatory costs of the criminal justice system	1.73 mills	1.76 mills

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Commission Clerk shall give notice of this ordinance to the Assessor of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and instruct him to levy and assess each tax as set forth herein for the year 2021, and the tax collector of Caddo Parish, Louisiana shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

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 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 6074 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY CLASSIFIED AS TIMBERLANDS AND TO INSTRUCT THE ASSESSOR TO INCLUDE SAID ASSESSMENT ON THE TAX ROLL OF THE PARISH OF CADDO FOR THE YEAR 2021, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal, and regular session convened, that the Tax Assessor of Caddo Parish be authorized and instructed to assess property in Caddo Parish, classified as timberlands at eight cents (\$.08) per acre for the year 2021.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that, the Commission Clerk shall give notice of this ordinance to the Assessor of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and instruct him to levy and assess the applicable tax, at the above stated rate, upon these values as set forth herein for the year 2021.

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 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 6075 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE VALUES FIXED, OR TO BE FIXED BY THE LOUISIANA TAX COMMISSION ON ALL ASSESSMENTS FOR RAILWAYS AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATIONS, AND TO INSTRUCT THE ASSESSOR TO EXTEND SUCH ASSESSMENTS AND VALUES ON THE TAX ROLL OF THE PARISH OF CADDO FOR THE YEAR 2021, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal, and regular session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission hereby adopts any and all assessments covering property owned by railways, tank car lines, and other public service corporations, and that the values named, fixed and reported be accepted and adopted as the values for all Parish purposes.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Commission Clerk shall give notice of this ordinance to the Assessor of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and instruct him to levy and assess each applicable tax millage upon these values as set forth herein for the year 2021.

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 ten (10) days after publication in the official journal.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 6076 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation of \$5,000 to conduct a training program for Caddo Parish Fire Districts, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Hopkins said that the fire districts do some type of special training every three to four years. This year Caddo Fire District No. 8 will be doing the training, and it will be available for all of the fire districts and the City of Shreveport.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6076 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE RIVERBOAT FUND FOR THE YEAR 2021 TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$5,000 TO CONDUCT A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CADDO PARISH FIRE DISTRICTS, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, All Caddo Fire Districts are required to have a Rapid Intervention Team available to rescue downed fire fighters during medical or fire emergency; and

WHEREAS, CFD8 would like to conduct a training program to provide training relating to Rapid Intervention rescues simulating real world emergencies, disasters and fire training; and

WHEREAS, CFD8 would like to offer this training to all personnel of Caddo Parish fire districts from the parish; and

WHEREAS, to host a training event of this nature, is a large and expensive undertaking; and

WHEREAS, many of the fire districts do not have the funds to pay for this type of training and CFD8 is seeking assistance from the Caddo Parish Commission as well as other organizations in the area to help assist the fire districts to cover the cost of the training; and

WHEREAS, CFD8 is requesting \$5,000 from the Caddo Parish Commission to assist with the costs of the training program; and

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

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
Riverboat Fund	
Allocations to Other Entities	
Fire District 8	\$5,000
Fund Balance	\$(5,000)

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. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance No. 6077 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation of \$100,000 for five D3 Edge Security Trailers, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Chavez would like to make a friendly amendment for it to be up to five D3 Edge Security Trailers. Attorney Bernstein said that could be achieved.

Mrs. Gage-Watts mentioned that this would be an additional tool for surveillance in this Parish.

At this time, Mr. Chavez's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSENT: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

ORDINANCE NO. 6077 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUND TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$100,000 FOR UP TO FIVE D3 EDGE SECURITY TRAILERS AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, citizen safety and security is paramount; and

WHEREAS, D3 Edge Security Trailers can provide surveillance at parish facilities and at parish funded or sponsored events; and

WHEREAS, the surveillance footage can identify crime and heighten the security of those places; and

WHEREAS, the cost of one D3 Edge Security Trailer is \$19,000; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to appropriate up to \$100,000 toward the purchase of five trailers; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to amend the 2021 American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation of \$100,000 for five D3 Edge Security Trailer; 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 American Rescue Plan Fund for the year 2021 is hereby amended as follows:

Budget Increase (Decrease)

American Rescue Plan Fund

D3 Edge Security Trailers	\$100,000
Fund Balance	(\$100,000)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

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

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

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to amend Ordinance No. 6078 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation of \$50,000 for a wastewater program for COVID-19 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.*

Mr. Burrell said that his request was misunderstood and would like the appropriation amount to be \$50,000 not \$25,000.

Answering a question from Mr. Atkins regarding the legality of the motion, Attorney Bernstein stated that the ordinance would have to be re-advertised due to the change in the title.

Mr. Burrell withdrew his motion.

It was then **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Ordinance No. 6078 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation of \$25,000 for a wastewater program for COVID-19 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Burrell said that it would be very apropos to test wastewater rather than individuals. He asked that the Commission support this ordinance.

Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to amend Ordinance No. 6078 of 2021 and postpone it meet the advertising requirements.*

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if this would allow all municipal sewer systems to be tested in Caddo Parish. Mr. Burrell said that he was unsure of that, but LSU will be conducting the testing.

The Clerk of the Commission explained that they would be testing a particular area, and it is not parish wide.

Mr. Epperson mentioned that LSU could easily test the other systems in the Parish. He also said that the Netherlands was the first country to discover this type of testing, and it was successful.

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, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Ordinance No. 6079 of 2021, an ordinance to accept the streets in Blanchard Lake Estates Subdivision Unit 2 & 3 into the Parish of Caddo Road System, 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, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

ORDINANCE NO. 6079 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE STREETS INBLANCHARD LAKE ESTATES SUBDIVISION UNIT 2 & 3 INTO THE PARISH OF CADDO ROAD SYSTEM, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a request to acceptthe streets in Blanchard Lake Estates Subdivision Unit 2 & 3, into the Parish of Caddo road system;

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received and reviewed thesubdivision plats showing a dedication to the Parish of Caddo; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo finds that the acceptance of the subdivisions into the Parish of Caddo system is in the best interest of the Parishof Caddo.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Parish of Caddo hereby accepts into the Parish of Caddo road system all of the streets inBlanchard Lake Estates Subdivision Unit 2 & 3, Caddo Parish, Louisiana as shown on the attached subdivision plat marked as "Exhibit A".

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a copy of this ordinance, with a subdivision plat of the Blanchard Lake Estate Subdivision Unit 2 & 3 attached thereto as "Exhibit A", shall be filed in the conveyance records of the Parish of Caddo.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provision or item of this ordinance or application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provision, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall be effectiveten days after publication in the official journal.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof inconflict herewith are

hereby repealed.

ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- *Ordinance No. 6080 of 2021, an ordinance adopting the Budget of Estimated Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6081 of 2021, an ordinance amending the 2021 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Juvenile Justice Fund and the Oil & Gas Fund to establish and provide an appropriation for a pilot program for juvenile offender monitoring, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6082 of 2021, and ordinance to close and abandon a portion of the dedication for Redrick Drive in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

WORK SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that the Work Session Minutes from June 14, 2021 be ratified. Motion carried.*

RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 53 of 2021, 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 adopted.*

Amendment by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to include the following language: Be It Further Resolved, that Friday, June 18, 2021 is hereby authorized as a Parish holiday for Caddo Parish employees in observance of the Juneteenth Holiday.*

Mr. Jackson pointed out that Juneteenth is a state holiday and is now a federal holiday. He also mentioned that Administration is preparing to submit a change to the personnel handbook to make it permanent.

Mr. Taliaferro asked for clarification regarding the holiday. Mrs. Bryant explained that it would be a paid holiday for employees. Those employees who provide essential services will be paid overtime.

Mr. Burrell mentioned that Congress also declared Juneteenth as a national holiday.

Mrs. Gage-Watts gave accolades to Representative Sheila Jackson Lee who fought to ensure that this would one day become a federal holiday.

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, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 53 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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.

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery in the Confederacy effective January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, the news that slavery had officially ended and that the slaves were free throughout the land now known as the United States was neither announced nor enforced in the western former Confederate states such as Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas in particular, until two and a half years after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation due to a low presence of the Union Army in those areas; and

WHEREAS, when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to establish the Union Army's command over Texas, he announced to the people of Texas on June 19, 1865, the end of slavery and the freedom of the slaves; and

WHEREAS, the formerly enslaved people in Texas celebrated their freedom on June 19, 1865, and such celebrations gradually evolved into the official commemorative holiday which has become known as "Juneteenth", which continues to be celebrated throughout the United States today through festivities, ceremonies, food, and other cultural traditions; 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;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has approved HB 554 of 2021 Regular Session and has been signed into law to declare the third Saturday in June, Juneteenth Day, as a legal holiday; and

WHEREAS, this holiday was further recognized by the inclusion of the holiday in the time for sale of fireworks under Act 68 of 2015 authored by Rep. Burrell, who now serves on the Caddo Commission; 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that June 19th of each year is hereby established throughout Caddo Parish, as a day of commemoration which shall be known as "Juneteenth Independence Day."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parish Administrator shall consider recognizing this holiday consistent with other annual official Parish Holidays and to submit proposal to revise the Parish personnel policies to establish this as a permanent holiday for parish employees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Friday, June 18, 2021 is hereby authorized as a Parish holiday for Caddo Parish employees in observance of the Juneteenth Holiday.

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.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that Resolution No. 54 of 2021, a resolution proclaiming June 19th as Sickle Cell Awareness Day in Caddo Parish* be adopted.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that June 19th is World Sickle Cell Awareness Day. She encouraged all that could to go and donate blood. She also encouraged all to wear red to honor those who are fighting Sickle Cell.

Mr. Jackson asked that the Commission do something in the near future to recognize the contributions of Miss Bradford for her efforts on raising awareness to all the Sickle Cell warriors.

Mr. Burrell announced that there will be a Sickle Cell Softball Tournament on July 9th-July 11th.

Mr. Cawthorne thanked Mrs. Gage-Watts for bringing this to the Commission each and every year.

Mrs. Gage-Watts requested that Administration light up the courthouse in red this Saturday in honor of Sickle Cell Awareness Day.

Mr. Burrell pointed out that African-Americans are not the only ones who can have Sickle

Cell. He said those of Italian descent, Greek descent, and Mediterranean descent can also carry the Sickle Cell trait.

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, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 54 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JUNE 19th AS SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY" IN CADDO PARISH

WHEREAS, Sickle cell anemia is an inherited blood disorder that mostly affects people of African ancestry, but also occurs in other ethnic groups, including people who are of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern descent.; and

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is a complex genetic disorder characterized by chronic anemia, episodes of debilitating pain and damage to vital organs; and

WHEREAS, early identification of a child with sickle cell disease coupled with antibiotic prophylaxis by 3 months of age and early intervention services, helps those with sickle cell disease while researchers continue to search for a cure; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana remains dedicated to the provision of sickle cell screening, education, and medical care for individuals and families living with sickle cell disease through its support of the Louisiana Department of Community Health's Newborn Screening Program and the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 17th day of June, 2021 that it did hereby proclaim June 19, 2021 as,

'SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY'

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens to join with the Parish in recognition of this important month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

It was **moved by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Resolution No. 55 of 2021, a resolution urging and requesting the Louisiana State Legislature to study the effects of the Justice Reinvestment Legislation of 2017 and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Lazarus explained that this resolution is only a request for data. He thanked Goodwill for coming down and speaking today.

Mr. Chavez requested that Administration ask the lobbyists to request data from the State on the difference between Caddo Parish and the other parishes. He also requested that the State Representatives recognize Goodwill for their program and what Northwest Louisiana has been able to achieve with their program.

Mr. Cawthorne said that his research shows that the implementation of the program has yielded results to the extent of the intention of the original program. He also wanted to know who would be the independent group collecting the data. Mr. Lazarus said that would be left up to the legislature.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 55 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION URGING AND REQUESTING THE LOUISIANA STATE LEGISLATURE TO COMMISSION AN INDEPENDENT STUDY THE EFFECTS OF THE JUSTICE REINVESTMENT LEGISLATION OF 2017 AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Task Force proposed a Justice

Reinvestment legislative package which was adopted in 2017;

WHEREAS, a premise of the Justice Reinvestment package was that it is in the best interest of the public to reduce prison populations and associated spending, hold offenders accountable, and reinvest savings into strategies to reduce recidivism and increase public safety;

WHEREAS, the Justice Reinvestment legislative package reduced sentences and allowed for early release of violent offenders;

WHEREAS, the study should examine if individuals released as violent offenders have reoffended; and

WHEREAS, the study should examine if the increase in violent crime is a result of the adoption of the Justice Reinvestment legislation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State Legislature to conduct an impartial and critical study of the effects of the Justice Reinvestment legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Legislature is urged and requested to adopt legislation implementing the findings of the study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 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.

It was **moved by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 56 of 2021, a resolution in support of the George Floyd Policing Act, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Cawthorne said that this legislation has been headed in a bipartisan way with Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina and Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey. He asked that the Commissioners support this resolution.

Mr. Taliaferro said that he has some concerns with the language in this resolution. He understands that this resolution is just giving support for the act itself. He also pointed out that chokeholds are banned. Mr. Taliaferro also mentioned that in some instances no knock warrants are signed and approved by judges for public safety and destruction of evidence. He reiterated that he has concerns with some of the language, but is in support of the overall purpose of this act.

At this time, Mr. Cawthorne's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: Commissioner Hopkins (1). ABSENT: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 56 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE GEORGE FLOYD POLICING ACT, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, George Floyd was killed while being taken into police custody on May 25, 2020; and

WHEREAS, this death and the death of others during police incidents, have highlighted a bias in policing based on race; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed the "George Floyd Policing Act" and said Act is now under consideration by the U.S. Senate; and

WHEREAS, the Act will:

Work to End Racial & Religious Profiling

Save Lives by Banning Chokeholds & No-Knock Warrants

Limit Military Equipment on American Streets & Requires Body Cameras Hold Police Accountable in Court

Investigate Police Misconduct

Empower Communities to Reimagine Public Safety in an Equitable and Just Way

Change the Culture of Law Enforcement with Training to Build Integrity and Trust

Improve Transparency by Collecting Data on Police Misconduct and Use-of-Force

Stop Sexual Assault in Law Enforcement Custody

WHEREAS, these improvements are very much needed so that there is equitable treatment of all citizens by police.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that it hereby supports passage of the "George Floyd Policing Act."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to all members of the Louisiana federal congressional delegation.

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.

OLD BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Resolution No. 47 of 2021, a resolution creating an ad hoc Pandemic Taskforce, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be adopted.*

Amendment by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to amend the resolution to reflect the following language: G. the taskforce shall function as an independent taskforce of the Long Range Planning Committee; and the first Be It Further Resolved to include: and the Commissioner who represents Willis-Knighton North, LSU Health Science Center, and Christus Highland as an alternate.*

Friendly Amendment by Mrs. Gage-Watts *to include Oschner LSU.* Mr. Jackson accepted.

Mr. Cawthorne wanted to know if the work would be done under the auspices of the Long Range Planning Committee. Mr. Jackson explained that this committee would work in conjunction under the Long Range Planning Committee, but the Long Range Planning Committee would not necessarily be doing the work. Mr. Cawthorne said that he does not see the necessity of creating another committee if this committee can function on an existing committee.

Answering a question from Mr. Jackson regarding if the President of the Commission has the authority to set up ad hoc committees. Attorney Bernstein said that neither the Charter nor the By-Laws speak to the creation of an ad hoc committee. He also noted that one of the legal maxims is that in the absence of legislation, custom has the force of law. In the past years, it has been custom that the President appointed a number of ad hoc committees.

Mr. Chavez thanked Mr. Jackson for bringing this to the Long Range Planning Committee. He said that he will be supporting this resolution.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know if this resolution did not pass, would it prohibit Mr. Jackson from adding anything to the agenda. Mr. Jackson said that Commissioners could add anything to the agenda. He also said that he does not necessarily know that this committee will make any

recommendations to the full body.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if he would need a resolution to create a Broadband ad hoc committee. Attorney Bernstein said that it would be preferable to have a resolution to remove any doubt.

Call for the Question by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Lazarus. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: Commissioner Cawthorne (1). ABSENT: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 47 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION CREATING AN AD HOC PANDEMIC TASKFORCE,
AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECTTHERETO.

WHEREAS, there is still a national and state level public health declaration in effect regarding COVID19 and a federal moratorium in place; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties continues to convene its weekly Pandemic conference calls to discuss resources and best practices with its membership; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo in partnership with LSU-Health and other community partners has applied to the Office of Minority Health for a \$4million COVID19 Grant for which a pandemic committee or taskforce is encouraged and would play an instrumental role in if successfully awarded; and

WHEREAS, great progress has been made over the last 5 months but there is still work to be done to educate Parish of Caddo and the public on Covid19 Pandemic in order to stay vigilant and prepared for possible seasonal issues; and

WHEREAS, the Pandemic and Natural Disaster Committee had many accomplishments during the first half of 2021, including the coordination of vaccine education with Senior Centers and Churches; Advocacy and education related to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program such as meeting with Shreveport Bossier Real Estate Investment Association (SBREIA) to help them understand how to apply for rental assistance; Hosting meetings with local business groups to introduce them to SBA Representative Susheel Kumar in an effort to help more small businesses navigate the Covid19 business relief programs; helping victims of the Fairfield Oaks Condominiums learn how they can apply for assistance from rental assistance to help move and receive relocation support. They also got to meet the FEMA and SBA representatives who offered additional assistance; and applied for a \$4 million vaccine literacy grant with LSUHSC and Office of Public Health, among other accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish is now home to the at least 2 of the new variant strains of COVID19 which is more transmissible; and

WHEREAS, Vaccinations have allowed life to return to normalcy for some Caddo residents, but Louisiana Department of Health has identified that a disparity among vaccinations in low income communities in Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, there is also work that remains to help deploy rental assistance, homeowner assistance, utility assistance, and other resources to help fully recover from pandemic; and

WHEREAS, FEMA still has open disaster case related to COVID19 Pandemic for Caddo Parish reimbursement for eligible expenses through September 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESLOVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that an ad hoc Pandemic Taskforce and shall function as follows:

- a) Work with local public health and medical experts on keeping public aware of

COVID19 protocols, variants, and all other related matters.

- b) May make recommendations as needed to the Parish Commission as needed on matter related to the Pandemic.
- c) Work with community organizations, faith based organizations, and social groups to encourage vaccination among low income communities.
- d) Shall receive reports and make recommendations on Emergency Rental Assistance Program.
- e) Shall receive reports and updates on FEMA reimbursement process to recoup pandemic related expenses for the Parish
- f) Taskforce shall dissolve on January 31, 2022 or after providing an after action review to the Parish Commission and the public on what was learned or whichever comes first.
- g) Taskforce shall function as an independent taskforce of the Long Range Planning Committee

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The members of the committee shall be those commissioners who were members of the Ad Hoc Pandemic and Disaster Committee as of May 20, 2021 if they choose to participate and the Commissioner who represents Willis-Knighton North, LSU Health Science Center, Christus Highland, and Ochsner LSU as an alternate.

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. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Mr. Hugh Hamilton, also known as Poetic X, be confirmed as the Caddo Parish Poet Laureate (term to expire April 1, 2024).*

Poetic X came before the Commission and read aloud the following poem:

*There is much about this life I have yet to learn
But I am still ambitious.
I'm still the product of my environment;
I'm still learning how to deal with it.
Who to love, who to trust
How to overcome my challenges, how to challenge myself to thrust.
I'm not sure about the lonely goodbyes that lies on the road ahead
Don't know how miles before I exile.
What I do know, I ain't dead.
My heart's still pumping; my lungs still function
As long as there's breath in the body, I can be excited about something.
Miracles grow in my habitat
Mirrors reflect my mind's reflection
I hope they find where my words at.
Maybe they too will start to dream
Maybe the rising and the falling of the sun won't set on them so young
Maybe just maybe their shadows can spread their wings.
Some little kid wants to be an astronaut,
But if hope never reaches his lungs,
It doesn't matter if he's astro or not.
Hopefully he can flow through the spaces.
I hoping his spacecraft doesn't break in half on hope's behalf.
I hope he lands on the bases.
Hopefully crime doesn't rob him of his time.
If we hurry, we don't have to worry when hope arrives,
He'll start flying.*

Plus a thousand more little astronauts like his kind,
 Relying solely on a wing and prayer.
 Very little self esteem
 Very little H2O by the time his Apollo turns 13.
 Emotional stain zone
 Give him a proper title, not another dropped cycle
 I hope it rains on him
 And hope enters its proper place
 Beneath the saw when he's called in God's amazing grace
 Safe in those that bear witness
 A labor of love or free will spirit an ordained apprentice.
 This ain't about quitting
 It's about relentless
 Staring hope right in the eye
 Hopefully my bystanders have quick handles
 I'm hoping we don't watch hope drive by
 Pedal to the metal
 I've got severe scores to settle
 My granny passed away
 I hope we find a cure for cancer one day
 Too many heroes unsung
 A mass choir will sing you out your Sunday attire
 But they caught cancer in the lungs
 Found a lump in their breast
 Memorize their notes, but Alzheimer's lay them to rest
 Hopefully we can wake them up
 Speak into their eyes before God decides to take them up
 Hope is what we're asking for
 Hopefully hope is something we share the same passion for
 I hate to see hope deferred
 Turned down rejected flat out intercepted
 Caught between a rock and a hard place
 Hope ain't always easy to chase
 It can disappear quick
 Caught between a rock and a hard place
 Cemented between two bricks.
 That's right
 Get in if you'd like
 Click or ticket
 You don't want to pay the price
 I'm hoping you follow precautionary when you drive
 I'm hoping the traffic ain't jams
 I'm hoping we have enough ram to make it to the other side
 Where hope can honor its new habitat
 Safe sound secure
 Mirrors reflect my mind's reflections, for sure
 Picture paragraphs reloaded
 I'm hoping the H2O flows where its supposed to go
 I'm hoping we don't leave the seas hopelessly devoted
 Relying solely on a wing and a prayer
 When hope arrives, he'll survive
 He won't get robbed of fresh air
 As long as there's breath in the body
 I can be excited about something
 My heart's still pumping
 My lungs still function
 This ain't about quitting
 Its about hope, about drive
 Our number one responsibility to give hope agility
 And keep hope alive.

Mr. Burrell commended Poetic X on his recitation of his poem. Mr. Chavez gave kudos to Poetic X for his poem. He complimented Poetic X for his incredible poem. Mr. Cawthorne said that he is very proud of Poetic X. Mr. Young thanked Poetic X for sharing his talent with the Commission. Mrs. Gage-Watts also thanked Poetic X for walking in his purpose and all of the hard work he does for this generation and future generations. Mr. Atkins thanked Poetic X for his work and congratulated him on his appointment as Caddo Parish Poet Laureate.

Poetic X thanked the Commission for appointing him as the Caddo Parish Poet Laureate.

He also brought a copy of his book and a couple of CDs for the Commissioners to enjoy his work.

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, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Relocation of the Confederate Monument
Mrs. Bryant said that it is an ongoing process, and they are scheduling vendors to inspect the monument.
- E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund RFP
Mrs. Bryant said that the RFP should be submitted by June 30 and will be awarded in July.
- I-49 Welcome Sign Update
Mrs. Bryant said that they are still waiting on DOTD to approve the permits to proceed.
- U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program
Mrs. Bryant said that the program is progressing well and all of the applications in the queue have been contacted to provide documents. She also said that they still have funds and are still taking applications.
Mr. Jackson thanked the Administration for implementing changes to the ERAP to better assist the citizens.

- FEMA Update
Mrs. Bryant said that they submitted the FEMA application for reimbursement for COVID-19 and are waiting to hear back from them.
- Juvenile Detention
There are currently 18 children in the Detention Center and 11 children at CCC.

COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Jackson thanked the body for approving Resolution No. 47 of 2021.
He also announced that there is a Lakeside Area Neighborhood Association meeting today at 6:00 p.m. He requested the American Rescue Plan sheets explaining administration's projects to bring to that meeting.
- Mr. Cawthorne announced that Dave Dennis will be at LSUS in the UC Theater at 6:30 p.m.
He also announced that Galilee Baptist Church has established a Fall T-Ball League and are looking for volunteers and coaches. You can find more information at www.urbantball.com.
Mr. Cawthorne also mentioned that Parks & Recreation is teaming up with local organizations for the Safe Summer Crime Prevention Program. The program will be held at various churches.
He also said that the President has signed a piece of legislation to recognize Juneteenth as a national holiday. He encouraged all to celebrate this day.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts would like to schedule a Juvenile Justice Committee meeting for next Thursday at 12:00 noon.
She also thanked Animal Services for their help with the ducks in her district.
- Mr. Chavez wished all the fathers a Happy Father's Day.
- Mr. Burrell asked about the community meetings regarding the American Rescue Plan funds. Mr. Jackson explained that the meetings will be held in the outlying areas of the Parish, but encouraged him to get with Administration and the Commission Clerk to set up a meeting in his district.
There was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the meeting was

adjourned at 5:24 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk


Lyndon B. Johnson
President