

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY, 2020

The Caddo Parish Commission met in legal and regular session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., via Zoom teleconference, with President 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. Johnson, and Mr. Young led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Eisibe Sneed made the following comments by phone:

Yes, my name is Eisibe Sneed. I am calling because I wanted to take the time to commend the people at the Animal Services. I had a problem with a raccoon intimidating me and coming into my bedroom closet. But anyways, it frightened me so I immediately called the animal shelter for help. And I spoke with the Assistant Director, I think his name was Kelvin Samuel, and he immediately showed concern to my issue. He got in touch with an officer, I think his name was McDowell. But, anyway, I just had to give those people the credit due them and let people know don't hesitate if they have a problem to call. And make sure you ask for the Assistant Director Kevin Samuel. He took good care of me. He sent Officer McDowell out. And Officer McDowell was very kind enough to come and try to help me with my problems. So, they don't only just pick up animals. I found out they come and help you out on other issues as well. So, this is how I wanted to give them that applaud from me.

Traci Lang submitted the following comment:

Good Afternoon, I am hoping you can assist me. I am now a permanent work from home resident in your area, who, as a lot of folks are totally sick and tired of the unacceptable service from Comcast/Xfinity for Internet. My internet goes down frequently. When my internet goes down, I do not get paid. I've been sitting here for 4 hours so far. My husband checked and the outage was supposed to be fixed by 2:24. Well, once again that has come and gone. We reside in rural Caddo Parish and do not have good choices for internet service. When it comes time to review their contract, please consider other options to provide us rural folks with. I'm listing 23.00 an hour. Are they going to pay me for my wages that I am losing? There has got to be an answer. And before you ask, it's not just me, it's others around me as well. It's not my equipment. Concerned citizen and worker, Tracie Lang

Reverend Asriel McLain made the following comments by phone:

Hello everyone. This is Pastor Asriel McLain, associate minister at William Baptist Church. I am also chairman of the Social Justice Committee for the Baptist Pastor Fellowship of Shreveport. I'm here to support the mask ordinance for the safety of our citizens in lieu of the virus. One thing I would ask the just members of this Parish to consider... I warn second hand germs is like second hand smoke. I wear a mask whenever I go out to ensure I don't catch it from those who don't wear masks. I think the way to fight this everybody has to mask up. Because to me it's like inhaling second hand germs is like second hand smoke. Two, members...Judea Christian concept ideas come before property. You people for the property. My concern it best community is concern about this. But I will also say that in the Christian Church community we put people first. We gonna get through this thing, we gotta work together. And third, we don't get a handle on this it's going to certainly cripple and bankrupt our medical healthcare facilities, because there is so much sickness. Every day as a Pastor, I'm hearing 2, 3, 4, 5 cases of virus. I hope and pray that the just members of the Commission will do the right thing. Go ahead and pass the order. Thank you and God bless you. And just remember that we all in the same boat, even though we on different sides of the ship. We in the same boat in this thing. Thank you.

Mr. Will James submitted the following comments as part of a petition, along with 2,135 signatures:

Greetings, We, the citizens of Shreveport, Louisiana, supported by friends, family, tourists, and allies, are requesting that the Confederate monument be removed from the Caddo Parish courthouse grounds. We are requesting to relocate the monument. If there is a substantial amount of time in between the time it takes for the monument to be relocated, we as that a resolution be submitted, authoring that the monument be covered up either by a black drop cloth, or via various decorations that could be used to temporarily transform the exterior (via modern day 50 star flags and "Black Lives Matter, Too..." jackets/tee shirts/etc.). This is a major point of contention in the community. Worse yet, the statue stands directly in front of the entrance to the Caddo Parish Courthouse, where any citizen that enters should feel that there is equal justice for all, regardless of race, religion, gender, etc. Please help us obtain relief from this affront to not just the Emancipation Proclamation, but also the fourteenth amendment of the United States Constitution. Growing up in Shreveport, Louisiana's Ledbetter Heights neighborhood, I would often walk with my mother through downtown to the local Fred's, McDonald's, or Woolworth stores. We would always stay on the sidewalk opposite the Caddo Parish Courthouse. We

never walked on the same side as this particular building, and I thought at first it was because of the obvious: too many times individuals with white hoods & robes surrounded the structure.... When I talked with my mother about it later (I was 14 years old), that's when I discovered that my mother was disturbed about the statue with the flags that sat on the courthouse grounds, celebrating those that "defended the cause of 1861-1865." "The Cause" was Louisiana's foray into the Civil War. Politicians and plantation owners were concerned that legislature from the federal government was going to impact their cheapest business expense: slave laborers. So to protect their economy and way of life, Louisiana seceded from the Union and joined the Confederacy, partnering with Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Texas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and Confederate Arizona (which would now be southern New Mexico combined with southern Arizona). Erected in 1905 and unveiled to the public in 1906, the monument is dedicated to those that fought with/for the Confederacy. With that being said, the most fitting place for this monument would be in Greenwood Cemetery or Oakland Cemetery, sites of various Civil War plots specifically dedicated to those veterans. An alternative location would be within the Louisiana State University Museum in Shreveport, Louisiana, where it would be protected from the natural elements currently experienced outside. The reason this monument should be relocated from the Caddo Parish Courthouse is that no citizen should have to walk by an object that's in front of the main entrance to the courthouse, and wonder if they will get the equal justice & protection that the 14th amendment of the United States Constitution affords to us all. At a time when social justice is at the forefront of media, sports, and social discussions, an object that supports the cause of discrimination is an affront to the legal freedoms that are supposed to be afforded to any race, gender, religion, or sexual preference. The Caddo Parish Commission is fighting to have this statue removed and we are looking to help them with this in any way we can. Let's demand swift, precise action relocating the monument. Let's demand EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL! "Remove the Knee From Caddo Parish's Neck. It's time for the Confederate monument to go."

Harry Haynes wrote:

If the commission waters down the mandate, what good is it? Either require the mask or drop it. Hopefully the commission will pay little attention to the crybabies that seem to be afraid of a mask. Obviously, they do not care whether they are putting others at risk or not. Typically selfish.

Nick Jordan wrote:

I'm writing to express my concern over the potential mask ordinance being considered by the Commission. I have several concerns: 1) The impact on businesses who are already in trouble. People will choose to shop, eat out, frequent, etc. even less than they are now. This overreach and overreaction by different levels of government is crushing the economy. 2) Overreach of government. Government should not be making personal safety decisions for individuals. This is a slippery slope...what will government "force" me to do next in the name of public safety? Will you force me to get a vaccine? Will you force me to get tested every month? Will you force me to wear some device that constantly displays my temperature? And so on, and so on. 3) The expectation the CPSO will be the enforcement function. And you know they will get calls about it. A waste of manpower and time for an organization who has more important things to do 4) The amendment to hire private security? What a waste of CARES Act funds! These funds should be going to help struggling businesses 5) This is a very questionable solution in search of a problem...of course cases are rising; more testing equals more cases. Some are getting tested multiple times and each time there is a positive test (even for the same person) it is counted as another "case." And if it is a lower risk person (younger, healthier, etc), why are we so concerned if they get the virus? How many people you know who have NEVER had the flu? I don't know many. The high-risk individuals should CHOOSE to do whatever is necessary to protect themselves (CHOOSE being the operative word). I hope you will carefully consider the impact of this (making a bad situation worse for business) and what the proper role of this government body is.

Kay Lester wrote:

Caddo Parish does not need a mask mandate. The people of this parish want to decide for themselves about health issues. It is not the government's job to micro-manage our individual lives. Please vote against a mask mandate.

Jayne Tappe wrote:

I don't even have the words to address you all. You would back someone who calls himself a Mayor that has threatened to turn off the water to businesses that do NOT comply to his will. A so-called mayor that would threaten to shut down businesses if they don't comply. To actually prevent them from opening? Are you really going to do that? Are you going to back him up in this? There is no way or how that I could list all the things wrong with this. The numbers themselves are false. The lies that have been told to us are all lies. They are all false. WE are not in danger from Corona. WE are in danger from the "demigod" who calls himself mayor and whoever else thinks they have the right to threaten businesses and livelihoods and food on the table of all the business owners. Not to mention, this stupid move really just makes people take the simple route, they will cross over the bridge and go to Bossier. Have you lost your minds? This entire farce from "not my mayor" is political in every sense of the word. It is unconstitutional and I hope and pray someone has the money to sue him personally BEFORE they go after the city. Because, it will happen. I hope you all understand this. He is personally gonna take the whole city down.

Martha P. Williams wrote:

I wear my masks everywhere. Every time I am a medical. I wear my mask from 7.30 to 4.30, .I eat without it for 30 mins. I gladly would rather wear my mask than be very sick with COVID. I refuse to take a chance. I am protecting myself and my patients. I also would rather work with a mask than be stuck at home broke. Masks make sense. Not wearing them is crazy. We just don't know enough about this disease to take a chance with people's life. Please concern your vote. Stay safe and healthy. We need all of you.

Beth Waldrop wrote:

Please do not extend the mask mandate outside of the 30-day order already in place in Shreveport. I can give you a list of facts, reasons, and opinions, but only one side of the aisle will agree or even give any credence to them. So I ask you to err on the side of common sense, history, and human decency, and to please not take away our health care rights any further. If masks work, then yours will protect you. If distancing works, than stay away from crowds or individuals. Quarantine and masks are historically ordered for the sick or weak who need protection. Not for the "well." And the vast, vast majority of us are well...not sick, recovering, recovered, asymptomatic...well. WE ARE PEOPLE MADE FOR HUMAN TOUCH, INTERACTION, AND COMMUNITY. Covid-19 is not the threat. It's the overreach of government, the 24/7 news cycles, and the ever-growing number of social media "experts" who are killing us. People will die. Thousands every day. Shootings, suicides, car wrecks, cancer, murder, overdoses, and various other diseases. We live in a fallen and broken world where we will ALL die. But shutting down businesses, social events, schools, churches...our LIVES...has never been and never will be the answer. I believe crime rates are rising because people are just flat angry. On both sides of the aisle. We are becoming a hateful, vengeful, rude, name-calling society. This should not be! Too many are not working and have no purpose or goals in life. Businesses are struggling with so many restrictions and decreased capacities. Children and young adults have been separated from friends and classmates for far too long. Senior adults have been isolated from family and human touch. Not seeing smiles on faces and hugs from friends is tragic and just plain wrong. Isolation, masks, and excessive sanitizing only leads to weakened immune systems and prolonging this viral threat! We are so polarized. So divided as a city, parish, state, country, and world. And the divide is widening. So I ask you to please not extend this madness any further. We are a free nation with rights. God-given rights and the rights bought with the blood of Americans who have fought for it for more than 244 years. We should have the right to protect ourselves. And that means having the CHOICE to mask or not mask. Thank you for your time. God help us, and God bless you as you make wise choices for Caddo Parish.

Camille Gladney wrote:

It is a shame we must pass laws to ensure common decency and respect but no one has the right to harm others with their ignorance. Mask up, Louisiana! When you wear a mask, you protect others; when others wear a mask, they protect you!

Cindy White wrote:

I am Cindy White owner of Clean Air Systems of LA, Inc. a minority owned business- I am a registered Native American Indian – Chickasaw. My business is located in District 10 and Mr. Chavez is our Commissioner. I wished to express my opposition to a mandated order requiring face masks. My company is a HVAC contracting company and we also do mold remediation. I have a LA state commercial anti-microbial pesticide applicators certification and LA state commercial owner- operator license, so I'm very knowledgeable concerning respiratory protection. We wear full face respirators when performing mold remediation and N95 masks when performing HVAC cleaning and restoration. Outside of these types of respiratory protection most other types of masks will not protect a person from the tiny particles of the Covid 19 virus. I believe the cotton masks and disposable masks give someone a false sense of protection from Covid 19. In my business I have very few customers that come to my office since our work is done at their commercial building or residential property. If the Commissioners vote to pass the face mask mandate, how long would businesses be required to comply? Would all types of businesses be required to comply? What is the goal or target that is hoped to be achieved if the face mask mandate is passed? Is it a number of cases such as "flattening the curve" and if so what is that number? What are the penalties for non-compliance? Will businesses be penalized for customers' non-compliance? Where does the liability fall in reference to Constitutional rights? Thank you for this opportunity to address the Caddo Parish Commission. Kindest regards, Cindy White, BS, ASCS, VSMR

Chris Kracman wrote:

Afternoon Commission. As to dodge being berated, I'd like to first note this is *my* *personal* opinion. How shameful it is to put such a strain on local business because a legal avenue cannot be found to create an unjust law. If a business owner wishes to instill a mask mandate within their private property, that's already their choice. Revised statue 63.3 is law that a proprietor already has the right to use if they so choose, as well. So, what is the true purpose of this legislation? To further strain business owners & our sheriff's deputies? When it is said "we've been 'urging' & pleading with the public from day one" to wear masks. But now believe you must mandate it...that means you all think you know better than citizens. In turn are calling your constituents careless fools. The expert opinion on record

gives the statistics of hospitalized & deaths on the rise. Without detailed facts of preexisting conditions or if they passed if it was with cause from COVID-19 or directly FROM COVID-19. If public safety must be from guess work why dont you all just mandate bubble wrap, helmets & steel toe boots. For those who question your duties as Caddo Commissioners I give you the very first sentence of your charter. Section 1-01. All government, of right, originates with the people. It is founded on their will alone and instituted to protect the rights of the individual. God bless you all. Chris Kracman

Bertha Matthews wrote:

My concern is regarding persons who are exempt from wearing a face mask or some type of face covering particularly #5. If I am correct you're saying persons that go in restaurants, hair salons, nail salons, barber shops, spas, etc. are exempt. Now that COVID is considered to be air borne and these establishments are in confined spaces and people are not there for maybe 5-10 minutes but in some cases for an hour or more a face mask or some type of face covering would most definitely be warranted. Of course, you can't eat with the mask but you can wear it when entering and leaving and there are other guidelines to keep patrons safely distanced. Now these establishments for grooming services there's no reason I can come up with why they are exempt. I would really like to understand how you came to that conclusion. Thank you.

Caroline Crittall said regarding Cross Lake:

I am emailing you to express my concerns with plans to lease Cross Lake to oil and gas companies. Clean water is essential to any community. Especially during the time of a global pandemic, clean water is essential to the health of our community and for us to recover from the global pandemic that we are currently facing. The consequences that oil and gas extraction has on the environment is huge and could not only contaminate our drinking water but also destroy the wildlife habitats in this area. Please consider the risks of what oil and gas extraction in Cross Lake may have on our environment, our drinking water, and our health. Respectfully, Caroline Crittall

Gretchen Upton Wrote:

My name is Gretchen Upton and I'm a Caddo Parish Citizen. Being such, I am incredibly concerned about the recent propositions for lease sales of parish land to the oil and gas industry. I know the danger that oil and gas poses to not just our environment & air but especially to our drinking water, which this sale proposed for Thursday's vote comes far too close to. I'm disappointed to see Shreveport regress by investing more in oil and gas and less in renewables, but this is a simpler problem than that. This is the safety of our drinking water that is at stake. And I know Shreveport won't sit back and allow you all to pollute it.

Ellen Stetson wrote:

I am strongly opposed to ANY Oil & Gas drilling near, under, or anywhere near Cross Lake. We simply cannot afford to jeopardize our drinking water supply. Our lives and livelihoods depend on clean, accessible water. Please count my opinion strongly AGAINST this proposal. "The Caddo Commission is voting THURSDAY on a resolution concerning a lease for oil and gas extraction from parish owned land- at least some of which is very close to Cross Lake." Ellen Newton Stetson, 6899 Highway 1, Shreveport, LA 71107

Chrissy Cousins wrote:

I urge you to vote No on Resolution 51. One more oil and gas extraction lease is too many for Caddo Parish. I am deeply concerned this activity is happening so close to our area's source of drinking water, my children's source of drinking water. The money or business interest is not worth poisoning the population. No more. Thank you,

Jon Soul wrote:

I am submitting my opposition to Resolution 51. Besides the obvious risk to our drinking water supply which I do not believe is worth taking, as an outdoor guide and enthusiast, frankly it is getting harder to take and show others the natural splendor of our area. We must protect the essential need for safe-drinking water and undeveloped greenspace.

Pamela McPherson wrote:

As a physician and a mother, I implore you to vote against any resolution that threatens our water supply and specifically, to block Resolution 51. I am against oil and gas extraction near Cross Lake. Please protect our health.

Rachel Demascal wrote:

I am concerned about the impacts of extracting oil and gas near the city's water source. The land that drains into the lake affects the quality of the water. Industrial activity can expose sediment that washes into the water and affects photosynthesis and the whole food chain. Spilled oil/gas and even

leaked diesel, gasoline, and motor oil from the machinery can pollute the water and negatively impact the environment. A healthy watershed is important not only for wildlife but also for all of the people in Shreveport. The value of our water quality far exceeds the dollars we could make from extraction of those fossil fuels. Please vote "No" on Resolution 51.

Matthew Mire wrote:

This is a public comment about resolution 51. I am concerned about oil and gas extraction so close to Shreveport drinking water. Our water is the most critical resource we have in our community. It should not be put in jeopardy under any circumstances. Please vote no to resolution 51.

Mary Ragsdale wrote:

Extracting oil close to our water supply is foolish. Additionally, it will be a federal security issue given the Barksdale Airforce Base's watershed. We need fresh water not only to live but for the wildlife habitat which continues to generate revenue from sportsmen. Thank you.

Kay McPherson wrote:

I would like to express my concern over proposed oil and gas extraction near Cross Lake which is Shreveport's water source. Informed Citizens in Caddo Parish are against this. Commissioners are elected to do the right thing for our Parish. We expect them to do so. Vote NO on Resolution 51.

Alvadius Bradley McPherson wrote:

50 years ago, I moved to Shreveport to become a professor at Centenary College. At that time there was a controversy over building a bridge over Crosslake. Eventually a compromise was made in the first self-drainage bridge in the United States was built in order to protect the water supply for Shreveport Louisiana. Now 50 years later our parish leaders are considering drilling and fracking near the water supply. The desire for money should not overrule the need for a safe water supply for Shreveport please vote no.

Sean Cassingham wrote:

Any small risk to our water supply is too high.

Kathy Osuch wrote:

Please vote against this proposal. We cannot afford to pollute our water supply. And we recently had such a glut of oil that they could not give it away. Don't do all this destruction to support an industry in decline.

James Ivy Woods III wrote:

Hello Caddo Commissioners, I have lived in Shreveport and the surrounding areas my whole life and clean water has always been made available to me. It is very important to me and to the health of our community that we continue to have clean drinking water. The bureau of land management did not notify the public at least 12 days prior to the transaction, as required by the environmental policy act, this is very unsettling and disrespectful. The people of Shreveport would like to keep our clean water and be notified when oil and gas companies want to/are in the process of buying up land. I am urging all of you to not pass this resolution. Please consider yourselves, all of us, and the environment — not just the oil money. Thank you for your consideration and for your accurate representation of the community's best interest.

Karen Guerin wrote:

Please! No drilling in close proximity to our drinking water supply!

Shari Moncla wrote:

Please vote NO on Resolution 51!!

Greg Guerin wrote:

VOTE NO TO RESOLUTION 51. Too many people are reliant on the Cross Lake Watershed for survival. Should the lake become contaminated, which is all too probable, then Shreveport would be forced into even more dire circumstances than it already is.

Keyaunta Stewart wrote:

VOTE NO ON Resolution 51!!!! PLEASE!!!

Christina "Camille" Gladney Schmoutz wrote:

Hello, my name is Christina "Camille" Gladney Schmoutz and I'd like to register a comment in regards to tomorrow's vote on Resolution 51: I urge our policy makers to vote NO on resolution 51. We must preserve our drinking water and choose the health of our citizens over possible profit. Thank you.

Susan Caldwell wrote:

Although I am a resident of Bossier City (4917 General Rusk Drive, 71112), I work in Shreveport as Director of Religious Education at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, and thus most of my congregants get their drinking water from Cross Lake. I am opposed to the sale of oil leases currently under consideration, and have registered a public comment with the Bureau of Land Management to that effect. We have seen over and over again the failure of so-called "safe" drilling practices and the havoc it has wreaked throughout the country on the land and on the health of our citizens, but particularly in our own region. We must find more sustainable sources of energy and commerce. Thank you for your time and attention.

Nettie Brown wrote:

I spent many years working with the Shreveport Water Department and I know how hard they work to have a safe, good looking water supply. We are already in need of infrastructure repairs, and drilling may threaten an already fragile system. We only have 1 water supply and if it gets contaminated, we could be in danger. You can't live long without water. The most recent Water Quality Report was actually really good, let's protect that hard work and protect the water supply. In Summary: Please Vote NO on the above resolution until you have more information on the impact of this drilling as related to COS water supply source. The newly relaxed safe drinking water supply levels of contaminants, done without much scientific research, may be a significant health concern for current and future generations. Please do some research of other similar situations regarding other water supplies

Gus Demerath wrote:

I am a Shreveport citizen and I am emailing to ask that the commission does not pass Resolution 51 to sell the land beneath and around Cross Lake. This would not benefit the people of Shreveport and puts our drinking supply in danger.

Candice Battiste wrote:

Today a vote will be held that will impact Cross Lake, and therefore our drinking water. I am requesting that you vote NO to selling off the rights to drill for oil and gas since it includes our primary drinking water source.

Mitch Norris wrote:

I am humbly asking for a NO vote regarding Resoulution 51 and asking that our drinking water be protected. Thank you for your time,

Frances Kelly, Joey Utey, wrote:

I am writing to ask you to vote no on Resolution 51, and to take further action to protect our drinking water supply. We all have the right to clean water and you should do everything you can to protect that right. Some of you may believe that this is not your responsibility because the state department of natural resources approves permits for drilling and the state previously sued the city of Shreveport on this issue, but the risks are too great for you to stay silent. You should join the citizens calling for Cross Lake to be protected by contacting the Governor and the Department of Natural Resources and asking them to not permit oil and gas extraction this close to our drinking water source. Fracking has contaminated drinking water sources across the country. A Duke University study focused on 4 states documented 6,600 spills over a 10 year period. A study in Pennsylvania found contamination in 82% of drinking water samples near fracking operations. Multiple scientific studies have linked fracking to serious health problems including childhood leukemia, lymphoma, bladder and thyroid cancers, One study found that pregnant women who lived near fracking sites had a 40% increased risk of having a premature baby. Another study found an increase in congenital heart defects and possibly neural tube defects for babies born near fracking sites. Fracking chemicals can cause cancer, affect the endocrine system, and affect the brains, kidneys, nervous, immune, and cardiovascular systems. The Yale School of Public Health found that 157 chemicals used in fracking were associated with either reproductive or developmental toxicity. Their study also found that the majority of chemicals known to be used in fracking had not been adequately studied and their toxicity is unknown. The city of Shreveport does not have the resources or the technological capacity to test for these chemicals and remove them from the water; trying to adequately test and clean water that has been contaminated with fracking chemicals would be nearly impossible and extremely expensive. Congress passed an exemption from the Safe Drinking Water Act for fracking, and companies are not legally required to disclose what chemicals they use because they claim that it is confidential business information. It is impossible to test our drinking water

for chemicals that we don't know the identify of. In addition, many of the chemicals that we do know are used in fracking, such as per and polyfluoroalkyl substances, persist and accumulate in the human body for decades, cause serious health problems even at low levels of exposure, and are very difficult to test for accurately. Consider who would pay to test and attempt to clean up the water if it becomes contaminated. It would end up being the taxpayers, not the company responsible. The oil and gas industry always claims that their drilling methods and pipelines are safe and technologically advanced, despite a track record of spills and contamination. But even if the casing for the current proposed drilling did not leak, new fractures can create new pathways of communication between new wells and old wells, and the toxic fracking chemicals can leak from old wells into the drinking water supply. Do not shirk your responsibility to protect our health and protect our water supply. Vote no on this resolution and use your influence at the state to ensure that our drinking water is safe. Thanks.

Teresa Legler wrote:

Dear Caddo Commissioners, I attempted to send a message to Vote NO to resolution 51. Unfortunately, my votes and comments did not go through. That is why I am resorting to sending via jeverson@gmail.com. The reasons for my voting NO are based upon my knowledge of other sites that have suffered the consequences for drilling and exploration for oil, gas and other minerals. First, I was born and raised in south Louisiana. Not only have I seen the before and after of the plight of the extraction of "The Prize". What remains, whether any "Prize", is found or not is deviation. It may not be obvious, to the naked eye, immediately. But in the case of bargaining the safety of our City's water supply, we hardly have a chip left to bet on. My answer is a resounding NO! This is a dangerous game of chance. The likelihood of damaging our precious water is too high of a risk. The elements used to extract the oil/gas, will destroy the land. The additional water needed to extract the oil/gas, is too precious to waste. The sludge that is extracted will destroy our Cedar and Cypress trees, and habitat are protected. Cross Lake is a manmade lake, it measures 10 feet, at the deepest. When we experience draughts, much of the lake is high and dry. We cannot experiment with our only source of water. Please consider my words. Sincerely, Teresa Casanave Legler

April Dahm wrote:

As a resident of Caddo Parish, I feel that the science behind masking wearing to prevent the spread of Covid-19 is undeniable. I feel it is my duty, to not only protect my family, but fellow citizens as well from those deadly viruses. If I were to refuse to wear a mask, I would stay out of public. Science has served humans well over the centuries as we have advanced in medicine and technology. If the simple task of wearing a mask can save lives, I think we are all owe it to our fellow humans to to protect one another, if not only ourselves. I love the freedoms our Country is based upon. I feel the freedom to be safe from harm is one of our greatest freedoms. To exercise that freedom, we need to take these temporary measures seriously. April Dahm

Kern Courtney wrote:

To the Caddo Parish Commission regarding Resolution 51, Please do not approve this lease of mineral rights under the land around the shores of Cross Lake in Northwest Louisiana. Please note the sizable risks for pollution of the only source of drinking water for the residents of Shreveport, LA. Also note that using these leases for extracting natural gas is not safer than extracting petroleum, as Commissioner Atkins suggested during Tuesday's meeting. When extracting natural gas, the current hydraulic fracturing process, known as fracking, may contaminate surface water due to spills and by improper disposal of its resulting waste water. Ground water can be contaminated if the fluid is able to escape the shale formation being fractured, impacting citizens with private wells. The environmental impact of a contamination of Cross Lake and nearby underground aquifers would be devastating to our parish and city and the health of hundreds of thousands of residents and tourists. Again, please do not approve the sale of the mineral rights in this area. Thank you for your time. -Kern Courtney, Shreveport, LA

Tabatha Taylor wrote:

Good Afternoon Commissioners, I am requesting that you vote NO to Resolution 51. I am asking that you make every effort to protect our water supply. Cross Lake is one of our most valuable resources. I would not like to see drilling of any sorts in or close to the lake. As many have already spoken before me against this, I humbly ask for a NO VOTE on this resolution. - Councilwoman and Constituent of District A

Jennifer Courtney wrote:

Dear Commissioners, Please oppose the Bureau of Land Management oil and gas lease sale on federal minerals around Cross Lake. We cannot afford to take a chance on damaging or polluting OUR WATER SOURCE. It sure seems a lot like biting the hand that feeds you. I understand that revenue is important to our parish, but the health of its citizens is priceless. Please do not allow the Bureau of Land Management to proceed with this deal.

Jade Kerouac wrote:

My name is Jade Kerouac and I am writing to express my opposition to the federal Bureau of Land Management's proposed oil and gas lease sale beneath Cross Lake's southern, northern and western shores. Cross Lake is Shreveport's drinking water source, and development of these leases could pollute that water. I am asking you to vote NO on Resolution 51. This plan poses significant threats to Shreveport's drinking water supply, and should be canceled. The parcels proposed for oil and gas lease are located on the shores of Cross Lake. Any spill or well blowout could do significant harm to Shreveport's drinking water. This is simply not a risk worth taking. Clean drinking water is something people all over the world fight to have access to. Cities in this country are still fighting that fight, but Shreveport doesn't have to be fighting that fight unnecessarily. By voting NO on Resolution 51 you can help your community stave off that fight. I do not feel that the Bureau has thoroughly analyzed the potential impacts to dam safety and other geologic hazards that could result from induced seismicity triggered by oil and gas development and wastewater injection on the lease parcels. Frankly, these risks to dam safety are not worth taking; the risks associated with the Bureau's plan are significant and they are significantly controversial. If the Bureau does not cancel this plan outright, it should at least undertake a full Environmental Impact Statement to fully analyze, disclose, and mitigate potential impacts to the environment and our community. Please vote NO on Resolution 51 and allow more time and research before risking to Shreveport's main water supply. The Bureau of Land Management's failure to notify the public and local governments about its plan does not meet its public notice requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act. Similarly, twelve days is not enough time for the public to evaluate and provide meaningful comment on the Bureau's plan. This sale seems hushed and rushed; deliberately doing business this way in the middle of a global pandemic comes across as shady and uncaring towards community concerns. I urge you to vote NO on Resolution 51 to allow more information to be presented to our community before putting its' main source of drinking water in jeopardy. Thank you for reading, Jade Kerouac

Kimberly Talley wrote:

Protect our land and especially our drinking water. Surely there are better ways for the parish to bring in revenue than leasing, among other things, our water source and putting it at risk for spills and damage we've seen happen in other areas. Vote NO on Resolution 51! Kimberly Talley

Charles Campbell wrote:

My name is Charles Campbell and I am writing to express my harsh disapproval and disappointment that ya'll are considering selling stolen land. This not only effects lower income neighborhoods negatively, but it also pollutes the environment. If you want this land to still be livable in the future, you need to think about your actions and how they will affect the community and planet.

Emily Hamann wrote:

Hello, I'm aware that the Caddo Commission will be voting THURSDAY on selling off the rights to drill for oil and gas on parish land in the sections in blue, some of which are right on Cross Lake, our drinking water source. PLEASE vote NO on Resolution 51! Thanks, Emily

Alison Hodges wrote:

Hi please vote no on Resolution 51 we do not need to damage our local ecosystems for oil.

Adrienne Critcher wrote:

My husband Bobby and I want to express our strong opposition to Resolution 51 which would sell off the rights to drill for oil and gas on parish land, some of which is right on Cross Lake, our drinking water source. We strongly oppose any action that could jeopardize and possibly contaminate our drinking water. I'm also cc'ing our Commissioner John-Paul Young to ask him to vote against Resolution 51. Kind regards, Adrienne

Sofia Nicole wrote:

I implore you to vote to stop the lease which allows oil and gas extractions on parish owned land. The risk is too great, especially with some of the land so close to Cross Lake. This lake is the primary source of drinking water for the denizens of Shreveport, Louisiana. There is a risk of an accident occurring while extractions which could ultimately lead to contamination in the nearby waters. Not only is this a risk for the environment and wildlife of the area, but it poses a major risk to humans if they were to consume the polluted water. These health issues can be grouped into respiratory damage, liver damage, decreased immunity, reproductive damage, and increased cancer risk. I must remind you that we are currently facing a worldwide pandemic, in which the virus also causes respiratory problems and damage, and the risk is too great not only for the people of Shreveport but also to local hospitals. As the daughter of a health professional, I understand that COVID cases in Shreveport are rising and the resources and space in hospitals can only go for so long. The oil and gas extraction poses a risk to the 183,800(ish) Shreveport denizens that could easily be avoided. Thank you for your time, I hope you consider this serious matter, Sofia Nicole

Catherine Jacobs wrote:

Vote no on Resolution 51. No drilling around Cross Lake! Catherine Jacobs

Libby Mangum wrote:

As a resident at Cross Lake, I want the Caddo Commission to know my opinion. On THURSDAY, vote NO on selling off the rights to drill for oil and gas on parish land in the sections which are right on Cross Lake, our drinking water source. I am respectfully requesting that the Commission vote NO on Resolution 51. Sincerely, Elizabeth "Libby" Mangum, Resident S Lakeshore Drive.

Brenya Faith wrote:

Vote no on Resolution 51. I am concerned about more oil and gas extraction so close to the lake that provides our drinking water. I'm very scared and concerned – Brenya

Romandie Green wrote:

I urge you to vote "NO" on Resolution 51. Having a safe source for water is an essential to having a decent living environment. We have already seen what companies are capable of in reference to "the bottom line." I am a firm believer in the notion that money means very little in the face of contamination and/or operations disasters. Despite the need for funds in this parish, the risk is too great to sell off the drilling rights. We must protect those things that are required for life. We must not fail ourselves or our children! Please vote against Resolution 51.

Erin Berry wrote:

Caddo Commission: Please save our drinking water. In the midst of a larger global pandemic, the last thing we need to do is foul up our local source of drinking water and security. I am emailing all of you. John Paul Young is my elected representative, but issues like this transcend borders. We are all affected and we all need your help. On Thursday, July 9, 2020, please vote NO on Resolution 51 which, if passed, would open portions of Caddo Parish, including areas within Cross Lake, to leasing for oil and gas exploration and extraction. Cross Lake is the primary source of potable water to thousands of households, businesses, and institutions in the greater Shreveport area. Maximally protecting this natural resource is critical to the health and well-being of the citizens of Caddo Parish and beyond. Oil and gas exploratory and extractive practices are inherently damaging to the environment, involving, but not limited to, land use alterations, intrusive infrastructure, and the introduction of polluting and potentially harmful toxic compounds and substances which impact all three critical environmental matrices; namely, soil, air, and water. With the current downturn in the oil and gas industry worldwide, due not only to limitations of storage capacity in an already glutted market, but also a marked downturn in consumer demand, there is no need to increase the footprint of such a potentially hazardous industry any further upon the NW Louisiana region.

Sarah Hair, Maureen Murov, Jennifer Russell, Kerry P. McNamara, Dakota Ferry, Ebony Mitchell, and Renee Dossett wrote:

Good morning, Caddo Commission: On Thursday, July 9, 2020, please vote NO on Resolution 51 which, if passed, would open portions of Caddo Parish, including areas within Cross Lake, to leasing for oil and gas exploration and extraction. Cross Lake is the primary source of potable water to thousands of households, businesses, and institutions in the greater Shreveport area. Maximally protecting this natural resource is critical to the health and well-being of the citizens of Caddo Parish and beyond. Oil and gas exploratory and extractive practices are inherently damaging to the environment, involving, but not limited to, land use alterations, intrusive infrastructure, and the introduction of polluting and potentially harmful toxic compounds and substances which impact all three critical environmental matrices; namely, soil, air, and water. With the current downturn in the oil and gas industry worldwide, due not only to limitations of storage capacity in an already glutted market, but also a marked downturn in consumer demand, there is no need to increase the footprint of such a potentially hazardous industry any further upon the NW Louisiana region. -In the same vein, the only way our economy can credibly recover is if we all step up and prioritize public safety. I applaud that Shreveport has instituted a mask requirement, and would appreciate consideration of the implementation of the similar requirement throughout Caddo Parish that is on your agenda. Resident of District 4

Annie Williams wrote:

Good morning, I am a resident of Stone Lakes Subdivision and and over 40 year resident in Caddo parish. I am asking for a vote of "No" to Resolution 51. Please do not allow Oil and Gas drilling on parish properties ESPECIALLY CROSS LAKE, our primary WATER SUPPLY! Registered voter, respectfully submitted

Chris Jay wrote:

I am writing you to urge you to consider a "no" vote on Resolution 51, which entails selling drilling rights to the Pine Island area of Cross Lake. Cross Lake is where we get our drinking water, and we cannot afford to risk it. Shreveport (and Caddo Parish) face plenty of enormous challenges already - finding a new source of potable water would be one too many. Also, with oil and gas prices in the toilet, as they have been for so long now, do we really stand to gain that much from royalties? Unlike lots of folks you're probably hearing from, I am not anti-oil and gas. I am anti *this* project, which is just too big of a gamble and, if it were to go wrong, could deal this city a blow that it may not be able to recover from. We can, through grit and determination, rebuild from a GM plant leaving, a major annual event going belly-up, or a global pandemic decimating our economy. We cannot rebuild from having no clean water to drink. Please vote "no" on Resolution 51, and thank you. Thank you, Chris Jay

Ashley McConnell wrote:

Please vote NO! on resolution 51!!! Shreveport citizen and native!

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that the following minutes be adopted:*

- *June 18, 2020 Regular Session Minutes*
- *July 2, 2020 Special Session Minutes—Resolution 50 of 2020 Minutes*
- *July 8, 2020 Special Session Minutes—Resolution No. 56 of 2020 & Ordinance No. 5962 of 2020*

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion carried.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Lazarus, *that Special Proclamation recognizing CPAS Volunteers and Fosters be adopted.*

At this time, **Mr. Jackson made a substitute motion**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, to englobe and adopt the following items:

- *Special Proclamation Recognizing CPAS Volunteers & Fosters*
- *Special Resolution Of Appreciation To Muriel Burns*
- *Special Resolution Of Remembrance For Dr. Charley M. Lester, Jr.*
- *Special Resolution Of Recognition For Sophia Nicolosi.*

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).

SPECIAL PROCLAMATION CADDO PARISH ANIMAL SERVICES VOLUNTEERS & FOSTERS

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission recognizes and commends the citizens of Caddo Parish for their supportive efforts regarding the fostering and or adoption of dogs and cats as companions during these trying times surrounding the pandemic of 2020; and

WHEREAS, a day of recognition presents an opportunity to highlight the actions of many Caddo Residents in their vital roles in assisting our Animal Services continue to find positive outcomes for the animals in our Parish; and

WHEREAS, pet adoptions from the animal shelter directly impacts the lives of homeless dogs and cats from our community; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Caddo Parish residents already know the pleasure and value of dogs and cats as pets and family members; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish residents support many non-profit animal rescue groups and other organizations dedicated to helping animals through donation of time and resources; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish residents responded to our call to action for fostering animals in our time of need, which directly resulted in animals being able to leave the shelter to find homes via animal rescue groups; and

WHEREAS, the generosity of the Caddo Parish community continues to enable Animal Services to become a model for innovative lifesaving measures in animal shelters; and

WHEREAS, the invaluable contributions of love, kindness, socialization, and care provided by fosters and volunteers to our animals help them to be prepared for a new beginning with their new families; and

WHEREAS, the fosters, volunteers and supporters of Animal Services have proven to be heroes in everyday form; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission does it hereby express its sincere gratitude to those families and citizens who rose to the occasion and fostered dogs and cats during this pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does continue to encourage its residents to volunteer, adopt a pet or become foster caregivers with the Caddo Parish Animal Shelter.

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
RETIRING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF JUVENILE SERVICES
MURIEL BURNS**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission ruefully acknowledges that the passage of time brings forth regrettable inevitabilities, among those being the necessity of saying goodbye to cherished friends who have chosen to walk the paths and live the dreams of retirement; and

WHEREAS, Muriel Burns, the beloved and respected Assistant Director of Caddo Parish Juvenile Services, has now made that choice, ending a career of public service that has spanned 35 years. Beginning in the role of Security Counselor on October 1, 1984, becoming the first African American female to serve as Manager of Juvenile Detention in 2001, and then serving as Assistant Director of Juvenile Services since 2011; and

WHEREAS, through the years; Muriel has endeared herself to untold hundreds of citizens and colleagues not only by the many attributes of warmth, wit, loyalty, dependability—but also by those traits she does not possess: arrogant self-importance, pettiness or pretentiousness; and

WHEREAS, her extensive knowledge of Juvenile Services, combined with her desire to help people made her an invaluable counselor, advisor, mentor and friend to many colleagues and employees not only in Juvenile Services, but throughout Caddo Parish and the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, now that her retirement is upon us, we pray the days are plentifully filled with family, food, and relaxation; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commissioners, who have served during her tenure, acknowledge the legacy of her work and affirm the commitment she has given to the Parish of Caddo's Juvenile Services, its staff and the Parish's citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby express its deep and sincere appreciation to Mrs. Muriel Burns for her invaluable contributions rendered on behalf of his service and declare, July 19, 2020 as:

MURIEL BURNS DAY

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, calling upon all citizens to note this occasion with a sense of appreciation and gratitude.

**RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCE for
DR. CHARLEY M. LESTER, JR.**

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, Dr. Charley Lester, Jr. was born in Scottsville, Texas on February 28, 1934. After graduating from Pemberton High School at the age of 15, he began his undergraduate degree at Wiley College, where Lester pledged Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. After completing his undergraduate degree at 18 years old, Dr. Lester continued his post-graduate studies at Howard University in Washington, DC and then Meharry College in Nashville, TN. Meharry College, 1 of only 3 Historically

Black Medical Schools in the United States, saw Lester grow as a student and a leader. He served as class president all 4 years leading up to his graduation with a Doctorate of Dental Surgery in 1960. Dr. Lester then joined the United States Air Force and did a 3-year tour in England where he managed and operated a dental clinic- providing valuable service to his country and gaining valuable experience that would play a role in his continued success; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lester's dedication to education, leadership, country and dentistry were outmatch only by his dedication to his family and God. He married Julie Boston Lester in 1965 and their blessed union of 54 years produced 2 daughters Kai and Charmel. Nurtured by their loving family, both daughters went on to successful lives. Kai is a Podiatrist in Houston, TX and Charmel is a Lab Analyst in Shreveport, LA. Dr. Lester has been a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church since 1968, and was active in the choir and United Methodist Men; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lester opened Lester Dental Corporation in Shreveport's Mooretown Community in 1965 and practiced there for close to 50 years. His Dental practice gave him the opportunity to help patients throughout his career. Dr. Lester's professionalism earned him many distinctions, including memberships in they Stat end National Black Dental Associations, The American Dental Association, the 1st African American to be appointed to serve on the Louisiana State Board of Dental Examiners, and he was the recipient of the Louisiana Dental Association's Distinguished Service Award in 2005; and

WHEREAS, dedication to helping his community led to many local leadership positions, from his service to the Caddo Community Action Agency as a board member, to his work during the Civil Rights movement, to his service on the Shreveport Home Mortgage Authority he was a consummate and respected advocate for in his community. This was perhaps most publicly evident through his election to and service on Caddo Parish Police Jury in 1971. The Police Jury later came to be known as the Caddo Parish Commission, and we especially thank those leaders, like Dr. Charley Lester, who brought us to where we are today; 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 **DR. CHARLEY LESTER, JR.** for the invaluable contributions he made during many years of selfless service to his City and Parish.

**RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
DISTINGUISHED YOUNG WOMAN OF LOUISIANA, SOPHIA NICOLOSI**

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

WHEREAS, MISS SOPHIA NICOLOSI, a Shreveport native and graduate of Caddo Parish Magnet High School who will attend Temple University in the Fall, has earned the title "Distinguished Young Woman of Louisiana, this January at the state-wide competition held in Covington, Louisiana. Nicolosi drew on her exemplary scholastic achievements, her experience as a principal dancer with the Shreveport Metropolitan Ballet, her work experience as a camp counselor at YMCA of Northwest Louisiana and her personal grace, poise and communication skills; and

WHEREAS, the 18-year-old Miss Nicolosi, serving as the "Distinguished Young Woman of Louisiana, earned a spot to compete in the Distinguished Young Women National Finals in June, 2020 where she was awarded the My Town Award and Scholarship. The Nationals competition typically held in Mobile, Alabama was held remotely through online streaming due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nicolosi took the opportunity to highlight her community as she competed in five categories (Scholastics, Interview, Talent, Fitness and Self Expression). Locations featured in her videos included the YMCA, the Strand Theatre, Cross Lake, Municipal Auditorium and the Downtown Riverfront; and

WHEREAS, her obvious charms are complimented by the depth of her substance: she stands as an intelligent, independent role model who is community minded, selfless towards others and a talented, expressive young women.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in legal and regular session this 9th day of July, 2020, that it does hereby extend its most sincere and heartfelt expressions of congratulation and appreciation to **SOPHIA NICOLOSI, 'Distinguished Young Woman of Louisiana,'** for her praiseworthy achievements and for representing Caddo Parish so elegantly and admirably to the state and nation.

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 July 9th, 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: July 7th, 2020

/s/Mario
Chavez
Caddo Parish Commission President

COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- The Clerk of the Commission read aloud the following notice of intent:

Notice is hereby given that the Caddo Parish Commission of Caddo Parish, Louisiana (the “Parish”), plans to consider ordinances to adopt (levy) the Parish’s ad valorem tax millages for properties within the Parish of Caddo, at the meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. at the Government Plaza Building, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana. At this meeting, the Parish will consider adoption of its General Purpose Millages, Special Purpose Millages, and Debt Service Millage. The Parish will also consider adoption of the values fixed or to be fixed by the Louisiana Tax Commission on all assessments for railways and other public service corporations and consider setting the assessments of property classified as timberlands.

- The Clerk of the Commission also noted the Confederate Monument Petition that was attached to the agenda and read aloud the following statement in regards to it:

Greetings,

We, the citizens of Shreveport, Louisiana, supported by friends, family, tourists, and allies, are requesting the Confederate Monument be removed from the Caddo Parish courthouse grounds. We are requesting to relocate the monument. If there is a substantial amount of time in between the time it takes for the monument to be relocated, we as that a resolution be submitted, authoring that the monument be covered up either by a black drop cloth, or via various decorations that could be used to temporarily transform the exterior (via modern day 50 star flags and “Black Lives Matter, Too....” jackets/tee shirts/etc.).

This is a major point of contention in the community. Worse yet, the statue stand directly in front of the entrance to the Caddo Parish Courthouse, where any citizen that enters should feel that there is equal justice for all, regardless of race, religion, gender, etc. Please help us obtain relief from this affront to not just the Emancipation Proclamation, but also the fourteenth amendment of the United States Constitution.

Growing up in Shreveport, Louisiana’s Ledbetter Heights neighborhood, I would often walk with my mother through downtown to the local Fred’s McDonald’s, or Woolworth stores. We would always stay on the sidewalk opposite the Caddo Parish Courthouse. We never walked on the same side as this particular building, and I thought at first it was because of the obvious: too many times individuals with white hoods & robes surrounded the structure....When I talked to my mother about it later (I was about 14 years old), that’s when I discovered that my mother was disturbed about the statue with the flags that sat on the courthouse grounds, celebrating those that “defended the cause of 1861-1865.” “The Cause” was Louisiana’s foray into the Civil War. Politicians and plantation owners were concerned that legislature from the federal government was going to impact their cheapest business expense: slave laborers. So to protect their economy and way of life, Louisiana seceded from the Union and joined the

Confederacy, partnering with Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Texas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and Confederate Arizona (which would now be southern New Mexico combined with southern Arizona). Erected in 1905 and unveiled to the public in 1906, the monument is dedicated to those that fought with/for the Confederacy.

With that being said, the most fitting place for this monument would be in Greenwood Cemetery or Oakland Cemetery, sites of various Civil War plots specifically dedicated to those veterans. An alternative located would be within the Louisiana State University Museum in Shreveport, Louisiana, where it would be protected from the natural elements currently experienced outside. The reason this monument should be relocated from the Caddo Parish Courthouse is that no citizen should have to walk by an object that's in front of the main entrance to the courthouse, and wonder if they will get the equal justice & protection that the 14th amendment of the United States Constitution affords to us all. At a time when social justice is at the forefront of media, sports, and social discussions, an object that supports the cause of discrimination is an affront to the legal freedoms that are supposed to be afforded to any race, gender, religion, or sexual preference.

The Caddo Parish Commission is fighting to have this statue removed and we are looking to help them with this in any way we can. Let's demand swift, precise action relocating the monument. **Let's demand EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL!** "Remove The Knee From Caddo Parish's Neck. It's time for the Confederate monument to go". (The petition has over 2,000 signatures and is attached to the agenda and made a part of the official record.)

- Mr. Epperson announced the Colonel DePyssler will be turning 101 years old on July 21st. Mr. Epperson continued and said that Col D has done so much for the military community. He also mentioned that Col D is the only living individual who has attained all ranks in the United States Air Force, as well as being the only living individual who has a facility on a military base named after him. He wished Col D a Happy Birthday.

Mr. Epperson also acknowledged Ms. Linda Paul for winning the June 2020 Beautiful Lawn Contest. He also acknowledged the Town of Greenwood and Ms. Veronica Brown for the food donations given to over 150 needy individuals in the community.

He also talked about the Keystone Pipeline. He said that the reason it was being struck down and given 30 days to clear the pipelines was due to the proper environmental constraints not being given.

Mr. Epperson requested that Administration compile a listing of businesses, profit, non-profit, secular, etc. that receive CARES funding in Caddo Parish.

Mr. Epperson also requested that Administration look into this coming up election to ensure that Mr. Spence's office is fully staffed. Dr. Wilson said that Mr. Spence had a concern with the legislation about masks and coming into the polling places. He stated that they will not turn anyone away that does not have a mask on. Social distancing is also a challenge, but they will do their best to navigate through that.

- Mr. Young wanted to know if the proper notice requirements were given for the drilling around Cross Lake. Dr. Wilson explained that all agencies throughout government is notified on the potential of drilling operation, and it is posted on their website.

- Mr. Jackson said that election day is July 11, 2020. He encouraged all to go out and vote. He also asked Administration for an update on the disparity study. He also wanted to know if the School Board ever got on board with it. Dr. Wilson said that he will provide this information at a later time.

Mr. Jackson also encouraged all the citizens to take advantage of the free COVID-19 testing. He also said that the number of people the Commission budgeted for has almost reached its capacity. Mr. Jackson also cautioned that "we are not out of the water". He said that numbers are increasing for positive cases, as well as hospitalizations and deaths. He thanked everyone who worked on the testing.

- Mr. Burrell re-emphasized that the election is this Saturday, July 11, 2020.

He also talked about the meeting they had with Sheriff Prator, which included the President, Vice-President, and himself. He thanked the Sheriff for answering all of his questions in regards to the recent political and racial issues facing Caddo Parish in light of the National Black Lives Matter movement.

- Mr. Johnson said that the Long Range Planning Committee met regarding Ordinance No. 5939 of 2019. He said that they were not able to go through the ordinance in its entirety, but will be meeting again in two weeks to try and finish it up.

Mr. Johnson also requested that Dr. Wilson and the President of the Commission create a taskforce with the City to discuss some of the companies that are shutting down. He said that Libbey Glass just announced they are shutting down, which is a loss of 500 jobs. Mr. Johnson also said that some of the casinos have also announced they are closing their doors. He said that the businesses should not remain empty and create blight in the community.

- Dr. Wilson announced that Mr. Robert Glass, Public Works Director, will be retiring September 4 after 25 years of service.

- Mr. Atkins reminded everyone that has historically voted at University Elementary to vote at LSU-S on Saturday. He also said that there will be signs directing people on where they should be voting.

- Mr. Hopkins said that last school year, students had a huge problem not having access to internet in the rural areas. He asked that a committee be set up with IT to look at rural connectivity. Dr. Wilson said that he spoke with Dr. Goree in regards to this matter. He said that they are working on it and seem to have a plan going forward.

Mr. Johnson stated that the plan the School Board is using inside the city limits of Shreveport will not work for everyone. He explained that the students around the Peachtree apartments were given Chromebooks, but did not have access to internet. They were told to go somewhere that has WiFi and download the information.

- Mr. Young suggested taking the masks they received to the different polling places. Mr. Burrell agreed.

- Mr. Epperson agreed with Mr. Hopkins about the connectivity in the rural areas. He is requesting that a representative from Comcast and AT&T be present at the next Work Session to discuss this matter. Mr. Epperson also pointed out that NACO has been focusing on this issue for the last six or seven years.

- Mr. Epperson also showed photos of blighted properties within his district. He said that this can happen anywhere.

- The Clerk read the following Notice of Intent into the record: Notice is hereby given that the Caddo Parish Commission of Caddo Parish, Louisiana (the "Parish"), plans to consider ordinances to adopt (levy) the Parish's ad valorem tax millages for properties within the Parish of Caddo, at the meeting on Thursday, August 8, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. at the Government Plaza Building, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana. At this meeting, the Parish will consider adoption of its General Purpose Millages, Special Purpose Millages, and Debt Service Millage. The Parish will also consider adoption of the values fixed or to be fixed by the Louisiana Tax Commission on all assessments for railways and other public service corporations and consider setting the assessments of property classified as timberlands.

- It was acknowledged that the entire petition, including all signature pages, was attached to the agenda.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Chavez stated that they had been receiving a lot of emails about government overreach, the City of Shreveport, masks, etc. He says that while not being a medical professional, he can't speak to when someone should or shouldn't wear a mask, but that there are several votes ahead during this meeting that will either mandate or urge and he will be urging because he believes that people have liberties and that he went to war to fight for that. He also continued that when trying to legislate, "Love your neighbor," always enters my mind. Our neighbors are the people who work at Salons, the guy who owns the bowling alley, the people that work at Libbey Glass. So while he sees a lot of people arguing about wearing masks, he asks that we remember that our neighbors and community are hurting financially. A lot of people have said, "I'll go over to Bossier to spend my money." Mr. Chavez reminded them that our small businesses are hurting badly, if it makes your neighbor next to you feel better to wear a mask, just do it. He doesn't always want to wear a mask, but will wear one and will go eat locally in Southern Hills because they need us to. We've heard the news that Libby Glass is closing and that we'll be losing 500 jobs there. We need to do everything we can do to support local, even if it includes the discomfort of wearing a mask to spend money locally. Loving your neighbor also includes political leaders. I'll be talking to other political officials asking them to ease burdens on some businesses that are hurting, maybe get some restrictions taken away.

Mr. Chavez then acknowledged that he had heard from quite a few people about Resolution 51. Mr. Randy Bichi who said that all 17 residents of Edgewood Homeowners association would like us to vote 'No.' He also heard from Frances Kelly, Lauren Jones, Bonita Boundaries, Erin Berry, Becky Meyer and Matthew Meyer. They all said they wanted us to vote 'No.' He continued that he hasn't heard anyone ask him to vote yes on it. So he agrees that water is one of our most precious

resources and short term financial gain is not worth the risk of compromising our water supply, so he'll be voting no on that.

Finally, Mr. Chavez said that this weekend is an election and that he's heard a lot of people unsure of what will be on the ballot. Caddovoter.org will show you what is on your ballot. For District 10 there are some new polling places, but you can just go to your normal polling place and there will be volunteers and signage directing you to the new polling location.

Public Hearing on Ordinances

Mr. Chavez asked if there was anyone in favor or against the following ordinances:

- *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;*
- *Ordinance No. 5962 Of 2020, an emergency ordinance mandating masks or facial covering in certain establishments and public places; to provide penalties for the violation of same, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.*

There being no one to speak for or against either of the above ordinances the President closed the public hearings on ordinances.

ORDINANCES (for final passage)

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that 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 adopted.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 5960 OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission appropriated \$25,000 in its 2019 budget for the Salvation Army's Boys and Girls Club; and

WHEREAS, the Boys and Girls Club programs aid the poor and needy youth in Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, as of December 31, 2019, the Boys and Girls Club had a remaining appropriation balance of \$10,396 and the remaining appropriation lapsed at December 31, 2019 and is not available for spending; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to re-appropriate the remaining \$10,396 for the Boys and Girls Club; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to amend the 2020 Riverboat Fund Budget to provide an appropriation of \$10,396 for the Boys and Girls Club; and

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

Budget Increase (Decrease)

Riverboat Fund

NGO Appropriations	
Salvation Army – Boys and Girls Club	\$10,396
Fund Balance	(\$10,396)

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

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

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, Seconded by Commissioner Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 5962 of 2020, an emergency ordinance mandating masks or facial covering in certain establishments and public places; to provide penalties for the violation of same, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

At this time Mr. Jackson made a **substitute motion**, seconded by Commissioner Young, *to amend Ordinance 5962 with the amendments that were offered by Mr. Young and Mr. Johnson.*

Mr. Atkins said that he support encouraging masks, but doesn't support mandating masks. He doesn't want to be viewed as uncaring or politically motivated. He doesn't think of himself as un caring and this isn't a political issue. His decision is based on fundamental beliefs. The first if personal responsibility, believing that individuals should be responsible for making their own decisions about their lives including their health and the health of their loved ones. He also believes in smaller government and that government shouldn't be over involved in making decisions for citizens. He continues that in the vast majority of the cases, individuals are better positioned to make the decisions regarding their own health than is the government. He acknowledges that there is a virus out there and he knows it is real and that some of them may get sick, but he doesn't think anyone really knows the best way to combat the virus. Should we all mask up an hunker down? Or should we push through and develop a herd immunity? There are a number of competing views here and we don't know with certainty which one is right. But in the meantime, he's not comfortable mandating the use of masks by our citizens.

Mr. Cawthorne then said that in our local community, in the construction of the political debate there tends to be a left and right position. That's fine. Commissioner Atkins just intimated the no one really knows how we should be handling this. He continued that the only example that we have of what we are currently dealing with is the Influenza virus in 1918, better know as the Spanish Flu. It lasted from February of 1918 to April of 1920. About 500 million people were affected worldwide. A third of the world's population the time. There were 4 waves associated with this particular virus and the mandate for wearing masks came from the White House all the way down: every state, every county, every city was in lock and step. There are even picture of Police Departments wearing masks. He suggests that if we don't know what we are venturing into, we should reference the only example that we have in American history. His question is "why in 1918 a mandate coming down from all levels of government was obeyed, and what is going on in 2020 that if we are all American, patriotic citizens and we are not in normal times, we are in emergency times- the what is the difference between then and now?"

At this time, **Mr. Burrell moved**, seconded by the Mr. Chavez, *to call for the question.*

Mrs. Gage-Watts questioned why everyone didn't get a first round to speak before the question was called. The president then asked the Parliamentarian to clarify. Mr. Atkins then clarified that proper parliamentary procedure, as confirmed by a memo from the Parish Attorney pointing out the procedures about calling for the question and if 2/3 of the body wants to call for the question, then we must do so. So our previous precedent of letting everyone speak once was not really within our commission documents. The Documents could be changed to allow that if needed.

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

At this time, Mr. Jackson'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).

ORDINANCE NO. 5962 OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE MANDATING MASKS OR FACIAL COVERING IN CERTAIN ESTABLISHMENTS AND PUBLIC PLACES; TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF SAME, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans and which can spread from person to person;

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency in the United States for COVID-19 under Section 391 of the Public Health Service Act;

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana, following consultation with public health authorities, declared a state of public health emergency on March 11, 2020 and has renewed that state of public health emergency on April 2, 2020; April 30, 2020; May 14, 2020; June 4, 2020; and June 25, 2020;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 disease is spread by microdroplets of saliva and mucus containing viral particles;

WHEREAS, the best advice of medical and healthcare experts on reducing the spread of the COVID-19 disease is use of face masks or other face coverings and social distancing;

WHEREAS, the incidence of the disease has significantly increased in recent weeks;

WHEREAS, the state-wide seven day rolling average of new cases is 1,284 and trending upward;

WHEREAS, hospitalization rates and ventilator usage rates are again trending up with over 200 hospitalizations daily;

WHEREAS, members of the public have increasingly been seen in public places not wearing masks;

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Home Rule Charter provides that, to meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or public safety, the Parish Commission may adopt an emergency ordinance at the meeting at which it is introduced;

WHEREAS, stopping the upward trend of increased infections, hospitalization, and deaths is critically important for the health and welfare of the residents of Caddo Parish;

WHEREAS, adoption of this ordinance as an emergency ordinance is warranted due to the recent increases in new cases and hospitalizations;

WHEREAS, improving the rate of mask wearing is essential to avoiding a return to a stay-home order and the devastating impact that would have on the local economy and property of Caddo Parish residents; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission believes that requiring use of masks or appropriate facial coverings in public places will increase the usage of masks and facial coverings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal emergency session convened, that it adopts the following emergency ordinance:

A. Businesses and Establishments - Facial Coverings Required

Facial coverings shall be worn by all persons, other than those specifically exempted herein, while obtaining any good or service or otherwise visiting or working in any business or establishment, including entering, exiting, and otherwise moving around within the establishment. Businesses or establishments of any type, including but not limited to, those permitted to operate under Executive Order of the Governor are subject to this provision. Such businesses and establishments include, but are not limited to, restaurants, retail establishments, hotels, grocery stores, gyms, pharmacies, indoor recreational facilities, and vehicles for hire.

B. Public Places -- Facial Coverings Required.

Facial coverings shall be worn by all persons in public places where social distancing in accordance with Center for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) guidelines is not possible or not being practiced. For purposes of this provision, public places shall include any outdoor areas that are open and regularly accessible, including, but not limited to, common areas within private communities accessible to more than one housing unit. This requirement shall only apply when ten (10) or more individuals are gathered and the minimum distance of six (6) feet provided in the CDC guidelines is not being maintained.

B.C. Governmental Facilities - Facial Coverings Required.

All persons accessing governmental buildings under the jurisdiction of the Parish of Caddo or administered by the Parish of Caddo for the purposes of conducting public business, visitation, contracting and maintenance, delivery, or any other activity requiring a presence in a governmental building under the jurisdiction of the Parish of Caddo or administered by the Parish of Caddo shall wear facial coverings as defined by the CDC at all times while present in the building unless otherwise exempted below. For purposes of this section, governmental buildings shall mean any Caddo Parish owned and operated buildings including, but not limited to, office buildings, parish facilities, and court or justice facilities.

C D. Exemptions - Facial Coverings Not Required.

Facial coverings are not required for the following persons:

1. Children under two (2) years of age and any child while under the custody of a licensed childcare facility, including daycare centers;
2. Persons prohibited from wearing facial coverings by Federal or State safety or health regulations;
3. Public safety, fire, or other life safety personnel that have personal protective equipment requirements governed by their respective agencies;
4. Individuals while actively engaged in exercise and maintaining social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines;
5. Persons receiving goods or services from a business or establishment for the such as, but not limited to, consuming food or beverage or receiving grooming or other treatment;
6. Persons who have a medical condition that makes the wearing of a facial covering unsafe such as, but not limited to, asthma, COPD, other conditions that reduce breathing or lung capacity;
7. Persons for whom wearing a facial covering conflicts with their religious beliefs or practices;
8. Persons who are alone in individual office or business spaces such that no person is within six (6) feet more than momentarily;
9. Persons in outdoor or unenclosed areas adjacent or appurtenant to businesses, establishments, public places, or governmental facilities while social distancing of at least six (6) feet is possible and being observed;
10. Persons while exclusively with members of their family or household and no person other than such family or household member is within the same enclosed area; and
11. Facial coverings may be removed temporarily while assisting persons who are hearing impaired or who rely on reading lips in order to communicate.

D E. Facial Coverings.

A facial covering includes any covering which snugly covers the nose and mouth, whether store bought or homemade, mask or clothing covering including but not limited to, a scarf, bandana, handkerchief, or other similar cloth covering and which is secured in place. Examples of compliant homemade facial coverings may be found on the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-clothface-coverings.html> Persons wearing face coverings should review the CDC and Louisiana Department of Health guidelines regarding safely wearing, removing, and cleaning facial coverings. In addition, in lieu of a facial covering as defined in this section, persons may wear clear, plastic face shields, consisting of a piece of rigid, clear plastic attached to a headband that extends below the chin, whether store bought or homemade. For persons who are unable to safely utilize face coverings, businesses shall offer reasonable accommodation when required by the Americans with Disabilities Act which may include, but is not limited to, offering curbside service or any other reasonable accommodation.

E. Compliance:

- 1) All businesses and establishments as provided for in Section A of this Ordinance shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance Order. and shall establish a process for verification of compliance upon customer entry into the establishment. Businesses and establishments shall make masks or facial coverings available to individuals entering if they do not already have a mask or facial covering. Business establishments may contact the Parish for an allocation of free masks from its limited supply.
- 2) Businesses or establishments shall inform each individual who is not wearing a mask or facial covering of the requirement that they wear a mask or facial

covering and that they may be directed to leave the premises if they fail to do so. Businesses or establishments ~~may shall~~ direct individuals not complying with this requirement and who are not exempt therefrom ~~shall be directed~~ to promptly leave the business or establishment. Failing to leave when directed in compliance with this ordinance may ~~shall~~ be considered remaining on the premises after being forbidden to do so under La.R.S. 63.3 unless that individual is exempt from the application of the trespass statutes.

3) A failure to establish and ensure such compliance shall be considered a violation of this ordinance punishable as a violation of any other ordinance of the Parish under Sec. 1-8 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances or as otherwise provided by law subject to the provisions of Section G below.

F. Signage: All businesses and establishments as provided for in Section A of this Ordinance shall conspicuously post signage as follows:

1. The required signage shall inform individuals that they are not to enter the business or establishment unless they are wearing a mask or facial covering in compliance with this Ordinance or unless exempted by the provisions of this Ordinance.
2. The required signage shall inform individuals that a mask or facial covering will be provided them if they do not have one.
3. The required signage shall inform individuals that they may be directed to leave the business, establishment, public place, or governmental facility if they do not comply with the mask or facial covering requirement.
4. Signage required in must be at least 8 ½" x 11" in size and printed in color if possible.

G. Enforcement:

The Sheriff of Caddo Parish, and any other personnel authorized by law, are authorized to enforce this Order. Compliance and enforcement processes shall include the provision of a warning and opportunity to correct before citations resulting in fines are issued. If a responsible person fails to comply with this emergency ordinance after warning and opportunity to correct, the responsible person shall be subject to the following penalties:

- a. The penalty for a first violation of this emergency ordinance shall be not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for the first violation and
- b. The penalty for each additional violation shall be up to five hundred dollars (\$500). Each incident of a continuing violation shall be deemed a separate additional violation.

H. Responsible Person:

With respect to an businesses or establishments under this emergency ordinance, a responsible person means any individual associated with the business or establishment who has the authority and ability to enforce the requirements of the Ordinance within the business or establishment, such as an owner, manager, or supervisor. A responsible person may also include an employee or other designee that is present at the business or establishment but does not have the title of manager or supervisor, but who has the temporary or designated authority and ability to ensure that the requirements of this emergency ordinance are met while the business or establishment is open to the public.

I. Violations: Revocation of Permits and Licenses . In addition to or in lieu of the penalties established by this emergency ordinance, repeated violations of this Ordinance by a Responsible Person by failing to require employees of the Establishment to wear a mask or facial covering may, subject to all procedural protections set forth in the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances, result in the suspension or revocation of any occupancy permit or business license issued to business where the repeated violations occurred.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Parish Administrator is authorized to contract with private security contractors to assist in enforcement and to seek reimbursement from CARES Act funding.

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 this emergency ordinance shall be effective for thirty

(30) days from the date of adoption.

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

ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- *Ordinance No. 5961 of 2020, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Sections 4-61 and 4-61.1 and enacting Sections 4-63, 4-64, and 4-65, all of Chapter Four of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, pertaining to Permits for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages & Alcoholic Beverage Handling Cards, and otherwise pertaining thereto*

RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Resolution No. 51 of 2020, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to request and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral & 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 remanded to the Natural Resources Committee.*

Mr. Johnson said that the public has been misled on this resolution. He explained that the property owners around Cross Lake were given letters regarding drilling and agreed to the drilling. Mr. Johnson also said that out of 3,840 acres, the Parish only owns 43. He also explained that whether the Parish agrees or not, the drilling will continue. He does not feel that this should be remanded to the Natural Resources Committee. Mr. Johnson pointed out that there is already a well under Cross Lake.

Mr. Johnson also mentioned that there was a landfill in that area a few years ago that was burning, with no public outcry. He also said that there are wells all over that area.

Mr. Cawthorne agreed with Mr. Johnson. He also feels that the citizens do not fully understand this resolution.

Mr. Taliaferro said that based on the feedback he has received, there is a genuine concern about this resolution. He is in support of this going to the Natural Resources Committee. He also asked that a map be provided showing the location of these wells.

Mr. Hopkins explained that the Natural Resources Department already issued permits and approval for these leases. Dr. Wilson believes that is correct. He also said whether or not the Commission approves this today, it will not delay the process.

Dr. Wilson also said that there a \$100,000 lease bonus with 20% royalty.

Mr. Atkins agreed with Mr. Johnson. He said that the Parish has 43 acres scattered throughout the six units that are targeted, and that acreage goes under the Parish roads. This only represents 1% of all the acreage that is attempting to be leased. Mr. Atkins pointed out that there are no surface locations here.

Mr. Burrell agreed and said that the Parish is a minor player in this. He also said that he is in favor of having more public input on this. He said that he is in support of obtaining the revenues, but also acknowledged that fracking has become an issue. He also feels that the Commissioners, as elected officials, should discuss this more.

Mr. Johnson also pointed out that the Parish does not own lakefront property that is adjudicated, other than the right-of-ways from the roads. He also said that the City of Shreveport owns Cross Lake, not the Parish. He also said that it could be fracking, but it might not be. Mr. Johnson also pointed out that it could be in the Cross Lake Watershed, but this is not the only well in that watershed.

Mr. Chavez understands why people are concerned about this drilling. He also feels that this should go to committee to show the citizens the facts regarding this resolution.

Call for the Question by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Chavez. Motion carried unanimously.

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: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Resolution No. 52 of 2020, a resolution urging and requesting area realtors to inform prospective buyers of property standards ordinances, restrictive covenants, and neighborhood and homeowners associations obligations and providing with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: Commissioners Hopkins and Lazarus (2). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 52 OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION URGING AND REQUESTING AREA REALTORS TO INFORM PROSPECTIVE BUYERS OF PROPERTY STANDARDS ORDINANCES, RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS, AND NEIGHBORHOOD AND HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS OBLIGATIONS AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, one of the principal purposes of the Caddo Parish Property Standards Ordinance is to maintain a consistent community standard of cleanliness and health within subdivisions;

WHEREAS, restrictive covenants which control many aspects of property use and care are common among residential subdivisions;

WHEREAS, neighborhood or homeowner associations which affect many aspects of home ownership in residential subdivisions are increasingly common in those subdivisions;

WHEREAS, realtors play a large role in the buying and selling of homes and frequently undertake the task of educating prospective home buyers as to the responsibilities of home ownership;

WHEREAS, educating prospective home buyers on the ordinances, covenants, and homeowner associations governing their neighborhoods will increase awareness, thus leading to an increase in home owners complying with the ordinances, covenants, and association rules;

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 area realtors to inform prospective buyers of property standards ordinances, restrictive covenants, and neighborhood or homeowner associations that govern the upkeep, use, and care of the property to be purchased.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission Clerk shall send a certified copy of this resolution to the Northwest Louisiana Association of Realtors.

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 Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to englobo and adopt the following resolutions:*

- *Resolution No. 53 of 2020, a resolution of final acceptance of State Project No. H.013389.6, regarding Caddo Parish Bicyclist Awareness signage, Caddo Parish, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 54 of 2020, a resolution designating July, 2020 as Parks & Recreation Month in Caddo Parish and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

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).

RESOLUTION NO. 53 OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION OF FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF STATE PROJECT NO. H.013389.6, REGARDING CADDO PARISH BICYCLIST AWARENESS SIGNAGE, CADDO PARISH AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, a final inspection of the State Project No. H.013389.6, entitled Caddo Parish Bicyclist Awareness Signage, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, was made on June 24, 2020; and

WHEREAS, all phases of work under the contract with Traffic Control Products Co of Louisiana, Inc. concerning the State Project No. H.013389.6, entitled Caddo Parish Bicyclist, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, is final.

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana requires a resolution of completion, satisfaction and acceptance of said work by Caddo Parish.

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish will maintain the bicyclist signage improvement on Parish roads within Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that Caddo Parish does hereby accept the State Project No. H.0013389.6, entitled Caddo Parish Bicyclist, Caddo Parish, Louisiana as satisfactorily completed in accordance with the contract with Traffic Control Products Co of Louisiana, Inc., bicyclist signage improvements on Parish roads within Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Caddo Parish will now maintain the work of the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parish Administrator and Chief Executive Officer or his designated representative for the Parish of Caddo is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents pertaining to the final acceptance of this project.

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 and, 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 repeated.

RESOLUTION NO. 54 OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING JULY, 2020 AS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH IN CADDO PARISH AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

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 Caddo Parish Commission that July is recognized as Park and Recreation Month in the Parish of Caddo.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Resolution No. 55 of 2020, a resolution urging and requesting Caddo Parish residents to wear masks and maintain appropriate social distancing while interacting with members of the public during the COVI-19 Pandemic, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be removed from the agenda.

Mr. Jackson said that the ordinance that was passed makes this a moot issue.

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. Young, *that Resolution No. 56 of 2020, a resolution enacting a COVID-19 Threat Level System within Caddo Parish and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Amendment by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Young, *that the Committee will consists of the Caddo Commission President, Caddo Commission Vice-President, Caddo Parish Administrator, Shreveport Mayor, City Council Chair, City Council Vice-Chair, Public Health Region 7 representatives, a representative from Willis-Knighton, Christus Schumpert, Ochsner, LSU, the VA, Director and Deputy Director form Homeland Security.*

Mr. Johnson explained that during natural disasters and pandemics, there are different grade levels. The State is currently using Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3. He believes that this Parish should have its own threat level gauge. He also explained that the Parish cannot go below the Governor's level, but it can be at the same level or move up depending on the state of the Parish. He pointed out that the weather channel uses color codes, and people can associate better with color codes and knows what it means. He said that this does not cost the Parish a dime, and asked for support from the rest of the Commissioners.

Friendly amendment by Mr. Jackson, *to add the Region 7 Hospital Administrator to the Committee.* Mr. Johnson agreed.

Mr. Jackson explained that the current Region 7 Hospital Administrator, Mr. Knox Andress, can speak to ventilator capacity, hospital bed capacity, and he communicates throughout the different hospital systems.

Mr. Taliaferro said that he is in favor of the threat level gauge, but would like to know if the Parish would be adopting the Harrison County, Texas model. Mr. Johnson explained that he used their model as a guide. Mr. Taliaferro is concerned that some of the committee members may not agree on the verbiage in the resolution. I don't want to pass something and be locked in, he said. Mr. Johnson explained that the Commission members are the policy makers for the Parish. He said that the committee can meet, and if there is something in there that needs to be revised, the President or Vice-President can bring that before the full body.

Mr. Taliaferro stated once again that he is concerned with the mandatory language in the resolution. If we pass it, it becomes the law, he said. Mr. Taliaferro believes that the document should be created with as much input as possible and "create good legislation".

Mr. Atkins likes the idea of having a threat level monitoring the level of risks involved, but believes that information should be used to make his own personal decisions on "whether I'm going to the store or not..." He said that the way this current legislation is written includes several mandatory actions. With mandatory actions, I'm yielding my own decision-making capability to a committee that may or may not have any idea about the true issues I'm facing in my personal life or my personal business situation, he said. Mr. Atkins said that he will not support this resolution.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if this piece of legislation could be a "fluid document".

Call for the Question by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Epperson. 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: Commissioners Chavez and Taliaferro (2). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried as amended, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, and Young (8). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (4). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

RESOLUTION 56 OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION ENACTING A COVID19 THREAT LEVEL SYSTEM
WITHIN CADDO PARISH AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH
RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is experiencing a significant and uncontrolled level of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it has been shown that measures such as wearing masks and social distancing limit the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo would like to issue additional guidance to its citizens in order to highlight the seriousness of the significant and uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 within the Parish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened that the Caddo Parish Commission hereby enacts the following threat level guidance with regard to COVID-19 and creates a committee to advise and set the Threat Level consisting of The President and Vice President of the Caddo Parish Commission, The Caddo Parish Administrator/CEO, the Mayor of the City of Shreveport, The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Shreveport City Council, the Region VII Public Health Regional Medical Director and Hospital Administrator, the Director and Deputy Director of Caddo Office of Homeland Security, and representatives from the following medical institutions: Overton Brooks VA, Ochsner, Willis Knighton & Christus. Threat Level guidance includes:

THREAT LEVELS

The Caddo Parish COVID-19 Threat Level system advises four levels of transmission: Level 1 severe (red), Level 2 significant (orange), Level 3 moderate (yellow), and Level 4 minimal (green). Along with the level of transmission are actions residents should follow: Stay home, (red); minimize all contacts (orange); stay vigilant (yellow); and resume normal contacts (green).

Level 1: Stay Home (Current Level)

Level one signifies a severe and uncontrolled level of COVID-19 in Caddo Parish, meaning OUTBREAKS ARE PRESENT AND WORSENING and that testing and contact tracing capacity is strained or exceeded. At this level, residents take action to minimize contacts with others wherever possible and avoid leaving home except for the most essential needs like going to the grocery store for food and getting medicine.

Face coverings are **considered mandatory** in public except for the following circumstances:

- When exercising outside or engaging in physical activity outside;
- While driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver;
- When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety, or security risk;
- While pumping gas or operating outdoor equipment;
- While in a building or activity that requires security surveillance or screening, for example, banks; or
- When consuming food or drink.

Level 2: Minimize ALL Contacts

Level two signifies A SIGNIFICANT AND UNCONTROLLED level of COVID-19 in Caddo Parish, meaning that there is ongoing transmission of the virus and that testing and contact tracing capacity is likely sufficient to meet demand. At this level, residents should minimize contact with others, avoiding any medium or large gatherings and only visiting permissible businesses that follow public health guidance.

Face coverings are **considered mandatory** in public except for the following circumstances:

- When exercising outside or engaging in physical activity outside;
- While driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver;
- When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety, or security risk;
- While pumping gas or operating outdoor equipment;
- While in a building or activity that requires security surveillance or screening, for example, banks; or
- When consuming food or drink.

Level 3: Stay Vigilant

Level three signifies a MODERATE, BUT CONTROLLED level of COVID-19 in Caddo Parish, meaning a demonstrated reduction in transmission and the local healthcare system is within capacity. Residents should remain vigilant, but resume contact with others and resume leaving home.

Face coverings are **encouraged** in public

Level 4: Resume Normal Activity

Level four signifies a MINIMAL AND CONTROLLED level of COVID-19 in Caddo Parish, meaning new chains of transmission are limited and quickly broken or a vaccine and/or treatment has been developed and widely deployed. At this level, residents may resume normal contact with others unless sick.

Face coverings are **optional** in public

Please note that face coverings are a secondary strategy to other mitigation efforts. Face coverings are not a replacement for social distancing, frequent handwashing, and self-isolation when sick. All people should follow CDC recommendations for how to wear and take off a mask.

Residents should keep up the following habits while in public:

- washing hands before you leave home and when you return;
- staying at least six feet away from others;
- avoiding touching nose or face;
- not using disposable masks more than three times; and
- washing reusable cloth masks regularly to prevent the spread of the virus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is effective immediately upon its passage.

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. Atkins, *that the following appointments be confirmed:*

- *Mr. Huey Horn to the Zoning Board of Appeals, term to expire April 10, 2023.*
- *Mr. Ronnie Festavan and Mr. David L. Norman to the North Caddo Medical Center Board, terms to expire July 18, 2026.*

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).

COMMUNIQES/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Burrell mentioned that the COVID virus is mutating and is now an airborne virus. He said that masks are absolutely necessary. Mr. Burrell said that many people are going to Bossier because of the mask mandate.

- Mr. Jackson agreed with Mr. Burrell and wanted to encourage people to continue wearing masks. He also pointed out that he did not say that the Sheriff was against a mask mandate; he simply stated that the Sheriff does not have the manpower to enforce a mask requirement.

He also wanted to know if the person writing the code enforcement violations is post-certified. Dr. Wilson stated that he is. He then wanted to know if the ACOs are post-certified. Dr. Wilson stated that they are. Mr. Jackson also wanted to know if CVEU person is post-certified. Dr. Wilson stated that he is. Mr. Jackson said that there are people that work with Caddo Parish who are not directly involved with the Sheriff's Office that could be utilized.

- Mr. Epperson re-emphasized that he would like a representative from Comcast and AT&T to attend the next Work Session. He would also like Dr. Goree to be invited to the next Work Session.

He also encouraged all to wear masks. He reminded everyone to keep the military in mind when wearing masks. He said that the USS Roosevelt had over 1,500 sailors who had contact with COVID-19.

- Mr. Atkins pointed out that making legislation is a part of this job, but also ensuring that inappropriate legislation or unnecessary legislation is not made is equally as important. He

- Mrs. Gage-Watts said that there still a pandemic going on. There is no cure; there is no vaccine. She said that they are responding to a public health crisis, and "it is up to us to protect us from going back to Phase One". She said that this is a constantly evolving situation, and they do know that masks, washing hands, and practicing social distancing works. She said that this will help stop the spread of the virus.

- Mr. Chavez wanted to clear up a matter with the Constables and the JOPs. He explained that the enforcement changed from the JOPs to the Director of Public Works, or his designee. This was done in January, 2015. He asked that Legal send out this legislation to all of the Commissioners.

There being no further discussion to come before the body, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.


Jeff Everson
Commission Clerk


Mario Chavez
President