

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 21ST DAY OF JULY, 2020

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 10:00 a.m., via Zoom teleconference, with Mr. Chavez, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Hopkins, Jackson, Taliaferro, and Chavez (4). ABSENT: Commissioner: None (0).

The invocation was given by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, and Mr. John E. Atkins led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Percy Jones, Jr. submitted the following comment:

Good morning, my name is Percy Jones, Jr. Good morning everybody. Thank you for allowing me to participate. I can't hear anybody so I trust I'm being heard. But my comment is about the monument. I saw on the news yesterday there was some settlement with the Daughters of the Confederacy. I wrote an article or a guest column to The Times several weeks ago and outlined that points the Parish sent their demand letter for the Daughters of the Confederacy to be out of it. My first question is did the Parish send the second letter informing the Daughters that they were going to appropriate the statue? Every law I looked at, even the judge's opinion, and the Caddo Parish definition of the parish courthouse, the parish already owned it. For some reason, the Parish is allowing the Daughters to claim they are the owner. Some might say what difference does it make? Well here is the difference it makes. The Parish outright owns it and law says they didn't. Then they could be creative in what they do with it and how they move it...\$300,000 unnecessarily to pick up all this big concrete then move it away. There are other options. Take those federal monuments busts of generals off, cover up words, take down the vest, take the soldier off- you could take a saw and cut those off. You can use the rest of the moment for a square, for steps. Then send that off to wherever you want to send it without unnecessarily spending \$200,000-\$400,000 of money that's needed elsewhere in the Parish. It definitely needs to be moved and we applaud the Commission for what they have done to get it moved and to move the community forward. That's applaud-able and we thank you. That's great. The simpler and more efficient economical ways to get this done. This is not a monument honoring anybody. This is just White Supremacy going amok and this motion of the Daughters of the Confederacy honoring the dead. I did the research, you can read it. All those generals were opposed to the monument. So, it's not about honoring them. It's not worth even maintaining and definitely not worth spending thousands of dollars of tax payer money. We can achieve the same goal another way. The people of the Parish are trying to maintain the monument as it is. Looking at it is spewing more hatred within our community. Those are my comments. Thank you.

Mr. Chavez requested the Deputy Commission Clerk corresponds with Attorney Frazier to respond to the citizen's questions. The Deputy Clerk acknowledged the request.

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 20, 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.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Resolution No. 57 of 2020, a resolution to relocate the polling place for Precincts 61 and 80 from Mooretown Professional Development, 3913 Powell Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71109 to Morning Star Baptist Church, 5340 Jewella Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana 71109, and to relocate the polling place for precinct 11 from Arthur Circle Elementary School, 261 Arthur Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71105 to Broadmoor middle lab school, 441 Atlantic Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71105 and otherwise providing with respect thereto be adopted.*

RESOLUTION NO. 57 OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO RELOCATE THE POLLING PLACE FOR PRECINCTS 61 AND 80 FROM MOORETOWN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, 3913 POWELL STREET, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71109 TO MORNING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH, 5340 JEWELLA AVENUE, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71109, AND TO RELOCATE THE POLLING PLACE FOR PRECINCT 11 FROM ARTHUR CIRCLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 261 ARTHUR STREET, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71105 TO BROADMOOR MIDDLE LAB SCHOOL, 441 ATLANTIC STREET, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71105 AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the established polling location for Precinct Nos. 61 and 80 is located at Mooretown Professional Development, 3913 Powell Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71109;

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish School Board has closed that school location;

WHEREAS, Morning Star Baptist Church, 5340 Jewella Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana 71109 is currently serving as a polling location and is willing to serve as a polling location for Precinct No.s 61 and 80;

WHEREAS, the distance between the current location of the polling place for Precinct Nos. 61 and 80 and the proposed location is .8 miles;

WHEREAS, the established polling location for Precinct No. 11 is located at Arthur Circle Elementary School, 261 Arthur Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71105;

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish School Board has closed that school;

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish School Board has agreed that Broadmoor Middle Lab School, 441 Atlantic Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71105 can serve as the polling place for Precinct No. 11;

WHEREAS, the distance between the current location of the polling place for Precinct No. 11 and the proposed location is 1.2 miles;

WHEREAS, the proposed polling places have been reviewed and meet all requirements for polling places.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby change the polling location for Precinct Nos. 61 and 80 from Mooretown Professional Development, 3913 Powell Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71109 to Morning Star Baptist Church, 5340 Jewella Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana 71109 and does hereby change the polling location for Precinct No. 11 from Arthur Circle Elementary School, 261 Arthur Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71105 to Broadmoor Middle Lab School, 441 Atlantic Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71105.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this change shall be published in the official journal of the parish in accordance with La.R.S. 18:535.

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

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


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

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *Commission to convene into executive session. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus and Taliaferro (10). NAYS: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.



Jeff Everson
Commission Clerk


Mario Chavez
President