The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., via Zoom teleconference, with Mr. Johnson, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Chavez and Hopkins (2).

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

**CERTIFICATE FOR TELECONFERENCE**

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana has declared a statewide Public Health emergency, inclusive of Caddo Parish, in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor, has further extended that declaration via Proclamations Number 96 JBE 2020 and Number 97 JBE 2020; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 42:17.1 allows members of political subdivisions to participate in its meetings electronically under certain limited circumstances.

THEREFORE, in accordance with the Provisions of R.S. 42:17.1, the presiding officer of the Caddo Parish Commission hereby certifies that this meeting is to address matters that are:

(a) directly related to the public Commission’s response to the Coronavirus Pandemic and are critical to the health, safety, or welfare of the public.

(b) that if they are delayed will cause curtailment of vital public services or severe economic dislocation and hardship.

(c) critical to continuation of the business of the Commission and that are not able to be postponed to a meeting held in accordance with the other provisions of Open Meetings Law due to a legal requirement or other deadline that cannot be postponed or delayed by the public body.

Date: October 2, 2020

/s/Mario Chavez
Caddo Parish Commission President

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mr. Jack Michaels called in with the following comment:

I’m mainly concerned there was a woman whose body was found in the LSU hospital. [inaudible] I have it on documentation; I have it on record. [inaudible] the university has been acknowledging the torture of patients. I can give you testimony to other people. [inaudible] Mayor Perkins is doing and he’s essentially not allowing any of us to get help because he blocks us on social media. [inaudible] record recording and threatens arrest for people trying to get help. Keith Hanson [inaudible] makes fun of victims who try to get help. And we need Perkins to contact the Governor because the Governor won’t respond to any community. There are [inaudible] for patients that are abused and tortured. [inaudible] Anyways, there’s this body of this woman found in the hospital. Well, she was dead. They didn’t want to investigate the cameras. They didn’t ask about the university police force [inaudible] she’s been in the hospital for about three days probably being raped and tortured. Then there was another woman who had to steal an emergency vehicle to get away. This is very serious, and y’all need to take this serious. [inaudible] show up in the neighborhood, and talk to people about LSU. They’re hurting people, ok? Now, its illegal for Perkins to block us on social media; its illegal to threaten us with arrest. [inaudible] phone documents. I need a real law abiding law enforcement officer. Sheriff Prator looks at communication, and you can pick up any independent messenger [inaudible] blocks victims when they try to get help. This is all backed up to the cloud. [inaudible] there’s no point in trying to deny it. [inaudible] you need to do something about this. The Assistant Commission Clerk advised the citizen that his time was up.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Mike Spence, Clerk of Court
  Report on the upcoming elections

Mr. Mike Spence said that the Elections Department meets daily and are visiting polling places to ensure social distancing can be accomplished. They are also making sure that a line in and a
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line out can be established, so people aren't crossing. They met with the School Board, who has been very accommodating. All volleyball and basketball games have been cancelled for that day. They are also sending notice to the principals to ensure there are no events scheduled on Election Day. The library system has closed the library systems on Election Day that way the whole library can be utilized, rather than just a small meeting room.

Currently they have 450 extra Commissioner for Election Day. Tomorrow, a drawing will be held to determine who will be working on Election Day. Their training will begin in the next week or two via drive-thru instruction. The Commissioners will have to be at their precincts at 5:30 a.m.

Beginning at 5:00 a.m. on Election Day, there will be eight employees manning the phones to answer any questions from Commissioners or citizens. The number is 318-226-6788.

There will also be 8 Sheriff's Deputies throughout the Parish to assist with any issues that may arise. State statute prevents the presence of law enforcement agencies at precincts. The deputies will be rotating all through the Parish checking on the precincts. A Deputy Clerk of Court will also be present at almost every precinct. They will possibly be using some high school students, if the Secretary of State approves it.

During the day, the Registrar and many deputy clerks will be opening the mail-in votes with a goal of being finished at 6 p.m. Each mail-in vote is three pages. Their goal is to have the numbers tabulated and loaded into the Secretary of State's website promptly. They are hoping to have all of the results in around 11 p.m.

Mr. Epperson asked that Mr. Spence describe the responsibilities and duties of a poll watcher. A poll watcher's duty on Election Day is to watch. They are not to interfere; they are not to talk to voters. Their duty that day are just to watch, and they are brought to them by the candidates.

Mr. Epperson wanted to know if Louisiana is a right to carry state, and if so, could a citizen bring a firearm to the precincts. Mr. Spence said that State law strictly prohibits firearms and weapons at a polling place.

Mr. Epperson then talked about signs in favor of candidates in proximity to polling places. He asked that those parameters be properly marked. Mr. Burrell agreed.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if weapons would be allowed at the precincts. Mr. Spence reiterated that it is against the law to have weapons at the precincts. He also said that there have not been any issues regarding weapons.

Mr. Burrell then asked about an absentee or mail-in ballot deposit box. Mr. Spence said that would be better answered with the Registrar or the Secretary of State.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know if there would be security at the precincts on Election Day due to the expected violence. Mr. Spence reiterated that the law prohibits law enforcement officers to be at the precincts, however, there will be deputies rotating throughout the Parish delivering items, etc.

Dr. Wilson asked about PPE requirements, such as a mask. Mr. Spence said that the law prohibits them requiring a voter to do that, but they are asking that people wear masks and bring their own pen to sign the sheets. He also said that they would be sanitizing the electronic devices the best they can.

Mr. Young wanted to know if face shields or masks would be available for citizens at the precincts. Dr. Wilson said that there is a limited amount. Mr. Spence said that the Secretary of State provided each precinct with masks.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know if hand sanitizer would be available at the precincts. Mr. Spence said that there will be an ample amount of it available. He also encouraged voters to bring a pencil and use the eraser of the pencil to cast their votes.

Mr. Epperson suggested that chairs and water be available for the voters. He also requested that Portalets also be available for voters.

Mr. Burrell asked if there will be accommodations for handicapped people on Election Day. Dr. Wilson said that there will spots available in front of the building for the handicapped. Mr. Spence said that people who are handicapped can skip to the front of the line.

COMMISSION REMARKS

• NOTE: The Commission will sit as the Tax Board of Review Thursday, October 8th during the Regular Commission Meeting.

• Mr. Epperson thanked Mr. Weaver and the Solid Waste Department for delivering the
dumpsters during their neighborhood cleanups.

- Mr. Atkins said that the Economic Development met on September 29 to discuss the Bel-di-Gil Water System. The Committee voted to forward the recommendation to the full body for further consideration.

- Mr. Johnson wanted to know if discussions regarding the end users having to pay a higher price was had during the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Atkins said that discussion did not occur. Mr. Johnson said that he was concerned with this. Dr. Wilson said that this would be a part of the economic analysis that is to be conducted. Mr. Johnson suggested providing a loan, not a grant, to recoup some of the money back from this project.

- Mr. Burrell wanted to know if there would be an increased cost on those individuals to help pay for the water system. Dr. Wilson reiterated that this would be a part of the economic analysis.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Mr. Cawthorne, seconded by Mr. Epperson, that Ordinance No. 5985 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund and the Oil & Gas Fund to provide an appropriation for the community policing project and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be moved to Thursday’s agenda for introduction.

- Mr. Cawthorne explained that this is information that has been derived from the Community Policing Act of 2021. Three safe houses will be implemented in the high crime neighborhoods of Shreveport and will serve as a mechanism for police officers to park their cars there and do their reports. It can also serve as a place for citizens to meet officers at a safe location. The intent is to create an atmosphere where the officers can gain the trust of the citizens. The police units can also serve as a deterrent to certain crimes.

The second part of this ordinance is to provide two pieces of training: crisis intervention and procedural justice training. Mr. Cawthorne also said that Chief Raymond will be available on Thursday regarding any additional questions.

- Mr. Atkins wanted to know if there were any thoughts on funding for a permanent program, since this was a pilot. Mr. Cawthorne said that this was an opportunity for the department to apply for grants.

- Mr. Atkins then wanted to know if there was anything prohibiting the Commission from funding this type of program. Dr. Wilson said that there is not.

- Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know the definition of a safe house. He would also like to know how the Chief is going to logistically support the safe houses with the shortage of personnel. He is looking forward for the Chief’s attendance on Thursday to answer some of his questions.

- Mr. Cawthorne understands that different forms of this has happened over the years. He said that this is a mechanism to “put boots on the ground” and connect with the residents of those high crime areas.

- Mr. Jackson said that he has not seen the vehicles that the Commission provided a few years ago in his district. He also suggested that officers park their units to write reports in problem areas.

- Mr. Johnson also said that he introduced the ShotSpotter program in 2015, and the Police Chief at the time turned it down too.

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

It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Burrell, that Ordinance No. 5986 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Capital Outlay Fund in the amount of $50,000 to increase appropriation for the Pine Hill Road Bridge, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be moved to Thursday’s agenda for introduction. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Chavez, Hopkins, and Jackson (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Epperson, that Resolution No. 71 of 2020, a resolution to allow NGOs that have not received their 2020 funds, and who have submitted the requested COVID updates to their programs, to be paid at 50% of the original appropriation and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be moved to Thursday’s Regular Session.
Mr. Burrell stated that he will be abstaining from this vote due to his previous affiliation with the Inner City Entrepreneurial program.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know the dollar amount for this budget. Mr. Johnson said that they reduced it to 50% to ensure there was a surplus in the NGO funding. Mrs. Barnett will be forwarding this information to the Commissioners.

At this time, Mr. Johnson’s motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Chavez, Hopkins, and Jackson (3). ABSTAIN: Commissioner Burrell (1). It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, to englobe and move the following resolutions to Thursday’s Regular Session:

- **Resolution No. 72 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, advertise for, accept and award bids, and execute all oil, gas and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto

- **Resolution No. 73 of 2020**, a resolution to provide an annual certification to the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development in accordance with the Off-System Bridge Replacement Program, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

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

**COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Jackson talked about the Bayou Classic being played in Shreveport. Dr. Wilson said that he spoke with the City’s CEO, Mr. Whitehorn, who expressed interest in the Parish contributing financially. Mr. Wilson asked that he put it in writing and send it to him. Dr. Wilson would forward it to the appropriate committee for further discussion. Mr. Johnson was a part of the conversation due to his appointment on the Sports Commission. Mr. Jackson is excited about the Bayou Classic coming to Shreveport, but feels like the process needs to be revisited.

- Mr. Jackson hopes that the same excitement for the Bayou Classic is had for the law school coming to Caddo Parish. he said that the Bayou Classic is a temporary event, but the law school will provide quality of life and economic development for years to come.

- Mr. Cawthorne and Mr. Burrell are excited that the Bayou Classic will be held in Caddo Parish.

- Dr. Wilson explained that each representative on the Sports Commission is to go back to their perspective bodies with the proposal in regards to the Bayou Classic. Mr. Johnson also said that the process was supposed to start today, but someone leaked out the information.

- He also thanked Animal Services for responding to an issue he was having in his district. He also thanked the Commission Clerk’s Office for providing the proclamation dedicating the Soul Bowl to Minnion Jackson.

- Mr. Epperson requested that Registrar Sibley be available for Thursday’s Regular Session.

- Mr. Epperson also said that Bethune High School has been changed to Oak Park. He will be contacting the School Board to see if they can get it changed back to Bethune High School.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- **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 and alcoholic beverage handling cards, and otherwise pertaining thereto
• Ordinance No. 5980 of 2020, in regards to Zoning Case 50-5-P, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the south side of South Lakeshore Drive and three hundred and sixty feet east of Jolly Napier Road, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-1-7, Single-Family Residential Zoning District to R-A, Rural Agricultural Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

• Ordinance No. 5981 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Capital Outlay Fund and the Oil & Gas Fund to provide an appropriation for the construction and improvement of Blanchard water lines that serve unincorporated areas within Caddo Parish and the Bel-Di-Gil Water System, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

• Ordinance No. 5982 of 2020, an ordinance proposing an amendment to the Caddo Parish Home Rule Charter relative to Section 3-07. Commission Meetings & Rules for presentation to the electorate, and otherwise providing with respect thereto

• Ordinance No. 5983 of 2020, an ordinance proposing an amendment to the Caddo Parish Home Rule Charter relative to Section 3-07. Commission Meeting & Rules for presentation to the electorate, and otherwise providing with respect thereto

• Ordinance No. 5984 of 2020, an ordinance proposing an amendment to the Caddo Parish Home Rule Charter relative to Section 5-05.2. Department of Fleet Services for presentation to the electorate, and otherwise providing with respect thereto

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved by Mr. Epperson, seconded by Mr. Johnson, that the Commission to convene into Executive Session to discuss matter relative to lawsuit #699,682 in the 19th JDC, East Baton Rouge Parish. Motion carried by acclamation.

At this time, it was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, that the Commission return to the regular Work Session agenda. Motion carried by acclamation.

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

/s/Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk