

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
January 12, 2016
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on January 12, 2016, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

MAYOR

Harold M. Rideau

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joyce Burges

Pete Heine

Dr. Charles Vincent

Robert Young

ABSENT

John Givens

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Rideau presided.

The invocation was given by Council Member Heine.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Vincent.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 22, 2015.

YEAS: Burges, Heine, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Givens

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Evelyn D. Johnson – Honorary Councilwoman (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent asked the Mayor and Council to come back to this item, as Mrs. Johnson had not arrived.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTER

1. Approve business license for J&J Property Management

Location – 5508 W. Tigre Chene, Baker, LA (Mayor) (held over from 12/22/2015)

Council Member Burges asked that this item be tabled, as no representative from J&J Property Management was present.

Council Member Burges recognized Elissa Boudreaux for her work with domestic violence in the City of Baker.

Council Member Burges acknowledged local author Angela R. H. Weir.

Council Member Burges recognized Valencia Brunette for her efforts to raise cancer awareness in the City of Baker.

Discussion regarding cancer/cancer awareness was held.

Council Member Vincent recognized Evelyn D. Johnson, naming her an Honorary Councilwoman. Ms. Johnson will speak at the Martin Luther King, Jr. program on

Saturday. She was a classmate and friend of the young girls killed at the 16h Street Baptist Church in 1963.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mike Collins with RMI gave a presentation detailing the direct impact safety meetings are having on the workplace in the City of Baker. The worker's compensation premium went from \$221,000.00 to \$188,000.00, a decrease which is a direct result of safety meetings.

Helene Wilkins, 4501 Greenwood, expressed her concerns regarding the condition of properties on the street, stating that junk vehicles, trash, and high grass are an issue.

Eric Burges, 2707 McHugh, invited everyone to attend PONY's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration being held on Monday, January 18, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. There will be a march, a short program, and food will be served following the program.

Beverly Tennart, 14024 Felicity, asked what is going to be done about the sewer problem in Feliciana subdivision. Discussion followed.

Adam Smith, Chief of Wastewater Engineering – City of Baton Rouge, stated that they are aware of the situation in Feliciana subdivision and he has issued work orders to camera, clean and smoke test all of the lines in that system to assess the situation. He will report back with the findings. Discussion followed.

The Mayor thanked the City-Parish for their quick response to the emergency situation with a sinkhole on Main Street when a line broke.

Kenneth Wackett, 14305 Felicity, expressed his concerns regarding the trash behind Bernard's and Dollar General, dumpsters being emptied at 3:00 a.m. and homeless people dumpster diving in the area. Discussion followed.

Alma Stewart, president and founder of the Louisiana Center for Health Equity, spoke about the coming expansion of Medicaid in the state. She would like to have a community meeting in the City of Baker in order to hear from the residents how changes have affected them and what they would like to see in the new governor's administration.

Council Member Young left the meeting.

UPDATE ON DISTRICTS

1. Update on District 3 (Burges)

Council Member Burges thanked everyone for keeping her husband in their prayers during his surgery and recovery.

2. Update on District 1 (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent wished everyone a Happy New Year and encouraged them to attend the Martin Luther King, Jr. program on Saturday, January 16, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Baker Branch Library.

3. Update on District 5 (Givens)

Council Member Givens was not present.

4. Update on District 4 (Young)

Council Member Young was not present.

5. Update on District 2 (Heine)

Council Member Heine stated that the proposed retreat center in Leland College subdivision is moving forward. He also stated that the issues with Groom Road need to be brought before the City-Parish government again.

Discussion followed.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution for LGAP Grant 2015-2016 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Heine to adopt the resolution.

YEAS: Burges, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Givens, Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

2. Proclamation declaring February 2016 as African-American History Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent spoke about the importance of African-American History Awareness Month and announced that a program has been scheduled for Saturday, February 20, 2016 at the Baker Branch Library. All three authors of *Images of America – Scotlandville* will be present to discuss the book.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Heine to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Burges, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Givens, Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Ordinance 2015-18, Utility Rent – Gas, Water, and Sewer (Mayor) (Introduced 12/22/2015)

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2015-18. Public hearing was held. Vote was called for.

YEAS: Burges, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Givens, Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

The Mayor stated that there is a meeting tomorrow with LaMats at 2:00 p.m. regarding condemnations.

Discussion followed.

1. 3657 Buchanan, Lot 82, Baker Heights Subdivision (Mayor) (held over from 3/24/2015)

No action was taken on this item.

2. 1984 Chamberlain, Lot 8, Square 7, Leland College Annex (Mayor) (held over from 4/14/2015)

No action was taken on this item.

3. 2005 Chamberlain, Lot 20, Square 11, Leland College Annex (Mayor) (held over from 4/14/2015)

No action was taken on this item.

4. 2610 Chamberlain, Lot 8, Square 19, Leland College Annex (Mayor) (held over from 4/14/2015)

No action was taken on this item.

5. 1047 Sinbad, Lot 15-B, Westmoreland-Nutt Subdivision (Mayor) (held over from 6/9/2015)

No action was taken on this item.

OLD BUSINESS

ANNEXATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2016-1, sales & use tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Burges, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2016-1.

YEAS: Burges, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Givens, Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2016-2, insurance license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Heine to introduce Ordinance 2016-2.

YEAS: Burges, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Givens, Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

3. Introduce Ordinance 2016-3, occupational license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Burges, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2016-3.

YEAS: Burges, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Givens, Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

4. Introduce Ordinance 2016-4, chain store license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Burges to introduce Ordinance 2016-4.

YEAS: Burges, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Givens, Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

5. Introduce Ordinance 2016-5, alcoholic beverage tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2016-5.

YEAS: Burges, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Givens, Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Planning and Zoning Commission
2. Annexation Review Committee
3. Economic Development Team
4. Heritage Museum/Related Committees
5. ABC Board
6. Other Special Committees
 - a. Buffalo Festival
 - b. Prayer Breakfast – Will meet in the first part of February. The theme for this year will be “Coming Home.” Coach Thomas will be the guest

speaker. Discussion followed. Chief Edwards asked that everyone keep Hokie Gajan in their prayers, as he continues his fight against cancer.

- c. Strategic Planning Committee
- d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement – Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Lagniappe.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor announced that the Municipal Retirement System is going up 3.5%, retirement for fire personnel will maintain at its current rate, and retirement for police personnel is going up 2.25%.

Discussion followed.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Burges to adjourn.

YEAS: Burges, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Givens, Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

**CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

I, Angela Canady, certify that I am acting Clerk of the Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana, and that the above and foregoing is a copy of the minutes of a regular meeting of the Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana held on January 12, 2016.

Angela Canady, Clerk of Council

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HILLCREST MEMORIAL GARDENS
CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
January 12, 2016**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, sitting as the Board of Commissioners for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, met in regular session on January 12, 2016, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS

Joyce Burges
Pete Heine
Harold M. Rideau
Dr. Charles Vincent

ABSENT

John Givens
Robert Young

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Rideau presided.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Heine, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 22, 2015.

YEAS: Burges, Heine, Rideau, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Givens, Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Rideau reported that once again, water is getting into the mausoleum. They are working to discover the source of the leak in order to resolve the issue. He also stated that they are looking at installing more lighting and cameras around the mausoleum. Commissioner Heine asked Chief Knaps if the city has a problem with people going into the cemetery at night. Chief Knaps stated that this has not been an issue. Commissioner Burges recommended careful consideration before undertaking larger projects at the cemetery. She also reiterated that the City should consider the possibility of selling the cemetery.

Discussion followed.

OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS

1. Monthly Business Report
2. Other Reports
3. Items Requiring Action

ADJOURN

There was no other business to come before the commission. The motion was made by Commissioner Rideau, seconded by Commissioner Heine to adjourn.

YEAS: Burges, Heine, Rideau, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Givens, Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

**CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

I, Angela Canady, certify that I am acting Clerk of the Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana, and that the above and foregoing is a copy of the minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on January 12, 2016.

Angela Canady, Clerk of Council

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BAKER CONSOLIDATED UTILITIES SYSTEM
CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
January 12, 2016**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, sitting as the Board of Commissioners for the Baker Consolidated Utilities System, met in regular session on January 12, 2016, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

Joyce Burges
Pete Heine
Harold M. Rideau
Dr. Charles Vincent

ABSENT

John Givens
Robert Young

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Rideau presided.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Rideau, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 22, 2015.

YEAS: Burges, Heine, Rideau, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Givens, Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Rideau stated that the weather has been warm, as a result there have been no issues, and he's received no complaints about gas bills.

Chief Knaps stated that the water meter issue at his house has been resolved.

Commissioner Rideau recognized and congratulated our newly elected State Representative Dr. Barbara Carpenter.

Commissioner Burges welcomed Mrs. Alice Sanders back to the Utility Department following the loss of her husband.

OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS

1. Monthly Business Report
2. Other Reports
3. Items Requiring Action

ADJOURN

There was no further business to come before the commission. The motion was made by Commissioner Rideau, seconded by Commissioner Burges to adjourn.

YEAS: Burges, Heine, Rideau, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Givens, Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

**CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

I, Angela Canady, certify that I am acting Clerk of the Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana, and that the above and foregoing is a copy of the minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on January 12, 2016.

Angela Canady, Clerk of Council