

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
March 28, 2017
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on March 28, 2017, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

MAYOR
Darnell Waites

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Doris Alexander
Glenda Bryant
Pete Heine
Brenda G. Jackson
Dr. Charles Vincent

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Waites presided.
The invocation was given by Council Member Heine.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Bryant.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Bryant to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 14, 2017.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognize Dr. Gordon J. Pirie, Jr. for 45 years of successful business in the City of Baker (Mayor)

The Mayor and City Council recognized Dr. Gordon J. Pirie, Jr. for 45 years of successful business in the City of Baker.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Abandoned and/or blighted properties (Mayor)

The Mayor provided an explanation of why these addresses have been placed on the agenda and outlined the City's action plan to deal with such properties.

- a. 2465 Hovey Avenue

No action was taken on this agenda item, as no representative was present.

- b. 2647 Chamberlain Avenue

Lionel Mulkey stated that he will clean the property, as per the city's request.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine to give Mr. Mulkey 90 days to get the property in order.

The Mayor stated that this response is the city's intent with regards to abandoned and/or blighted properties. He said the city is not interested in tearing down houses, he hopes that through this initiative property owners will rehabilitate the houses.

City Attorney Fabre suggested that the council be specific in their motion to give property owners 90 days to rehabilitate their property, and include an outline of expectations to be met in the interest of providing clarity.

Mr. Mulkey stated that he intends to tear the trailer down and remove it from the property.

Discussion followed.

c. 1748 Clark Street

No action was taken on this agenda item, as no representative was present.

d. 2745 Chamberlain Avenue

Percy Vessell stated that he intends to clean, repair and secure the property.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to give Mr. Percy Vessell 90 days to get the property in order.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

e. 1008 Epperson

No action was taken on this agenda item, as no representative was present.

f. 3657 Buchanan Street

No action was taken on this agenda item, as no representative was present.

The Mayor stated that the shed left on the property at 4411 Ashland following demolition is going to be torn down by the city, as it is a public safety hazard.

Council Member Heine stated that the council wishes to work with the individuals in their districts in an effort to clean up the city. He reiterated that it is not the city's intent to come in and tear down people's property.

Discussion regarding the procedure/process regarding condemnation and demolition was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander to have the city board up the abandoned/blighted houses.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTER

1. Approve business license for Lawson Restoration, LLC
Location – 5515 Country Lane, Baker, LA (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Members Heine/Jackson/Vincent to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for Lawson Restoration, LLC.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring March 2017 as National Women's History Month in the City of Baker (Bryant)

The proclamation was read by Council Member Bryant.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member

Alexander to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Vincent encouraged everyone to go and see the movie *Hidden Figures*.

2. Proclamation declaring April 2017 as Cancer Control Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

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

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Vincent stated that the Relay for Life event held on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at the BREC Community Park in Zachary was wonderful. He reminded everyone that it is not too late to support the Cheerful Givers Z Team and the American Cancer Society.

3. Proclamation declaring April 2017 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

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

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Ordinance 2017-8, an to amend, supplement and re-enact ordinance to name the City of Baker municipal park "Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park" and to provide for other matters relative to the same (Bryant) (Introduced 3/14/2017)

Council Member Bryant explained her reasons for asking for support from the council and the community with this initiative to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Council Member Alexander asked for an explanation of the proposed ordinance.

Discussion regarding the proposed ordinance followed.

Council Member Heine qualified his position and explained the reason that he is not voting in favor of adopting the proposed ordinance. He said he has no problem with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he has great respect for the man and all he accomplished. However, he feels that if the park is to be renamed, it should be Veterans Memorial Park.

Council Member Alexander stated that she is abstaining from the vote because she feels that this council should have an entirely new ordinance that deals with this matter. She does not feel it necessary to involve the previous council's legislation in any way.

Public hearing was held.

City Attorney Fabre provided further explanation of Ordinance 2017-8, and the process by which the council adopts legislation.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Heine to table this agenda item.

Discussion regarding the proposed ordinance continued.

Council Member Heine withdrew his second of the motion to table the agenda item.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to adopt Ordinance 2017-8.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: Heine

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Alexander

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

ANNEXATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

2. Approve travel to training conference for Fire Department personnel (Mayor)
Chief Edwards provided an overview of the conference members of his department will attend in Indianapolis. He stated that the only expense to the city would be use of a city vehicle for transportation.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to approve the request for travel to the training conference for Fire Department personnel.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Update on status of requested school zone on Lavey Lane near Impact Charter Elementary School (Alexander)

Council Member Alexander said constituents have concerns regarding the traffic on Lavey Lane, referencing the recent accident on Lavey Lane involving a speeding car running in to Mr. Odendahl's house. She wants residents to know that the council is aware of the issue and has already taken steps to address these concerns.

Council Member Alexander said she received an email from the Mayor regarding the requested school zone on Lavey Lane near Impact Charter Elementary School, and the project is in the process of being implemented.

Council Member Alexander stated that she has also been approached about the foot traffic on Lavey Lane late at night, and she feels that much of said traffic is coming from the rehabilitation homes located at St. James trailer park.

Discussion regarding rehabilitation homes in the City of Baker followed.

4. Introduce Ordinance 2017-9, an ordinance regarding increased allotment of employees within departments in the City of Baker and to provide for other matters relative to the same (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson provided an explanation of the proposed ordinance, and asked that City Attorney Fabre read the ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Alexander to introduce Ordinance 2017-9.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

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 – Chief Edwards stated that the theme has been determined, the colors will be black and red, and he feels it's going to be a really good event.
 - c. Strategic Planning Committee
 - d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Tarita Freeman, 1404 Johnston, expressed her concerns regarding rental property that is not being repaired following the August 2016 flooding. She asked how long the city and residents are going to wait to see improvement at these addresses. Ms. Freeman also asked what procedure/process has been implemented to deal with such properties.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Vincent asked when BREC plans to remove the golf carts from Lavey Lane.

The Mayor asked that he come to his office so that they can call BREC Superintendent Carolyn McKnight.

Council Member Vincent stated that he would like to see a city-wide clean-up day in the City of Baker.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Vincent said that Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome is sponsoring Talent in the Tent at Howell Park, a program to bolster the northern part of East Baton Rouge Parish, as well as several summer youth programs.

Discussion regarding possible dates for a city-wide clean-up day in the city was held.

Council Member Heine reported that the Mid-Size City Conference in Mandeville was a great and informative trip.

Council Member Heine said that he visited the group home for children located on Texas Avenue and they have a beautiful place.

Council Member Heine stated that the water rate issue is imminent. He said the city has to get its rates brought up, because it's coming and the city has to be prepared. He also reminded everyone that as commission members, they can be held personally responsible should the water company go defunct. He said that elected officials have to do unpopular things at times, but the issue has to be addressed.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor stated that the water rates are going to be a serious issue, and that the city will have to move on that real soon.

The Mayor asked that everyone continue to work together to clean the city up.

ADJOURN

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

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

**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 March 28, 2017.

Angela Canady, LCMC
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
March 28, 2017**

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 March 28, 2017, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS

Doris Alexander
Glenda Bryant
Pete Heine
Brenda G. Jackson
Darnell Waites
Dr. Charles Vincent

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Waites presided.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 14, 2017.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

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 Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Bryant to adjourn.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

**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 March 28, 2017.

Angela Canady, LCMC
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
March 28, 2017**

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 March 28, 2017, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

Doris Alexander
Glenda Bryant
Pete Heine
Brenda G. Jackson
Darnell Waites
Dr. Charles Vincent

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Waites presided.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 14, 2017.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

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 Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Heine to adjourn.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

**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 March 28, 2017.

Angela Canady, LCMC
Clerk of Council