

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
September 13, 2016
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on September 13, 2016, 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 Mayor Waites.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Jackson.

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 August 23, 2016.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Alexander to add item “5. Authorize the Mayor to waive building permit and demolition fees regarding the 2016 disaster (Jackson)” under New Business to the agenda.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Welcome Hertz and Mr. Marshall Desadier to the City of Baker (Heine)
Council Member Heine welcomed Hertz and Mr. Marshall Desadier to the City of Baker and stated that he would deliver the certificate, as Mr. Desadier was unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTER

1. Approve business license for Brown-Eagle Group, Inc. located at 14516 Plank Road, Baker, Louisiana (Mayor)

The Mayor stated that this entity went through Planning and Zoning and was approved. He said there is no need for a vote of the council regarding their business license, as they will not be selling anything. They will be renting space in the city to be used as a warehouse. The Mayor asked the representatives from Brown-Eagle Group, Inc. to introduce themselves, and they did so.

2. Approve business license for Indulgence Fine Catering located at 3155 Polk St, Baker, Louisiana (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Jackson to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for Indulgence Fine Catering.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Approve business license for Sunshine Construction located at 2248 S. Magnolia, Baker, Louisiana (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Heine to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for Sunshine Construction.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Approve business license for Sears Hometown Store located at 252 Main St, Baker, Louisiana (Mayor)

The Mayor asked that the new owner introduce himself. The new owner gave a brief explanation of the changes and improvements that have been made at the store, and invited everyone to attend the Family & Friends event on Thursday.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

The Mayor and Council surprised Council Member Heine by presenting him with the Community Spirit Award for his lifetime of dedicated service to the City of Baker and its residents. The proclamation celebrating this achievement was read, and Council Member Heine was given the award.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Ordinance 2016-25, an ordinance to adopt an adjusted millage rate and levy said rate upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said City of Baker, Louisiana (Mayor) (Introduced 8/23/2016)

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Jackson to adopt Ordinance 2016-25. Vote was called for.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Ordinance 2016-26, an ordinance to adopt an increased millage rate, but not in excess of the prior year's maximum rate, on all taxable property shown on the official assessment roll for the year 2016 (Mayor) (Introduced 8/23/2016)

Public meeting was held.

Discussion regarding the assessed values of property in the City of Baker was held. Concerns were raised regarding assessed values and the variation of taxes paid within neighborhoods for comparable properties.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Bryant to take these concerns to the Tax Assessor so that they may be discussed.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Discussion regarding assessed values and the variation of taxes paid within neighborhoods for comparable properties resumed.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Alexander to adopt Ordinance 2016-26. Vote was called for.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The Mayor returned to agenda item 1. Ordinance 2016-25, an ordinance to adopt an adjusted millage rate and levy said rate upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said City of Baker, Louisiana (Mayor) (Introduced 8/23/2016) under Public Meeting.

1. Ordinance 2016-25, an ordinance to adopt an adjusted millage rate and levy said rate upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said City of Baker, Louisiana (Mayor) (Introduced 8/23/2016)

Public meeting was held. The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to adopt Ordinance 2016-25. Vote was called for.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

ANNEXATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2016-27, an ordinance to designate Baker Police Department equipment to be surplus (Mayor)

The Mayor asked that this item be tabled until the next meeting.

2. Approve travel for Norma Jarreau to attend the LAMSA Conference in Houma, Louisiana (Mayor)

The Mayor provided an overview of the LAMSA Conference.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Members Bryant/Vincent to approve travel for Norma Jarreau to attend the LAMSA Conference in Houma, Louisiana.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Introduce Ordinance 2016-28, an ordinance to allow for temporary placement, for up to 18 months, of manufactured housing in residential districts and/or designated disaster relief site in response to the 2016 flood event (Mayor)

The Mayor provided an overview of Ordinance 2016-28.

Discussion regarding allowing temporary placement of manufactured housing in residential districts and/or designated disaster relief sites was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Alexander to introduce Ordinance 2016-28.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Resolution to request that the state establish a school zone on Lavey Lane, Louisiana Highway 3006, in conjunction with Impact Charter School (Alexander)
Discussion regarding school zones on Lavey Lane was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Bryant to adopt the resolution.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

5. *Authorize the Mayor to waive building permit and demolition fees regarding the 2016 disaster (Jackson)*

Council Member Jackson stated that it is an honor and privilege to ask her colleagues to authorize the Mayor to waive building permit and demolition fees for the citizens of Baker affected by the flooding disaster of 2016, as they have been through enough.

Discussion regarding waiving building permit and demolition fees followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Alexander to amend the motion made by Council Member Jackson regarding waiving building permit and demolition fees to include “for those impacted by the 2016 flood.”

Discussion regarding waiving building permit and demolition fees resumed.

Vote was called for.

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 – Planning and Zoning Chairman Willie Williams suggested appointing a committee to review the ordinances pertaining to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Discussion followed.
2. Annexation Review Committee – Council Member Heine asked City Attorney Fabre about the status of the possible annexation of the state owned property on Groom Road. Discussion followed.
3. Economic Development
4. Heritage Museum/Related Committees
5. ABC Board
6. Other Special Committees
 - a. Buffalo Festival - Monique Butler, Buffalo Festival Chairperson, announced that the Buffalo Festival will be held September 22 – 24, 2016. She provided information on the Buffalo Festival and all related activities. Discussion followed.
 - b. Prayer Breakfast
 - c. Strategic Planning Committee
 - d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Admon McCastle, 14056 Brantley, asked about the viability of reestablishing a basketball league in the City of Baker.

Gerald Collins, 4715 Groom, stated that the recently founded Baker Area Sports Association, whose goal is to unite all of the Baker area sports teams in an effort to better utilize the community's resources, plans on reestablishing the basketball league in the near future.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Bryant thanked the Greater First Baptist Church's Women's Auxiliary for distributing lunch today. She also extended her thanks to everyone who has come to help feed the residents in our community that are in need. She stated that the City of Baker has truly been blessed.

Council Member Vincent inquired about debris removal. The Mayor stated that he will address this issue under Administrative Matters.

Leroy Davis, 4312 Azie, reported that the Baker Lions Club, in collaboration with several other entities, served food to 900 families on the Friday following the flood, and that another 1,500 families were served the next day. Dr. Davis stated that the Baker Lions Club donated \$2,000.00 of their own money toward that effort.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Administrative Assistant Julie McCulloch provided an update on debris removal. She stated that it is a slow and tedious process, and encouraged anyone with a problem to call her or the Mayor's office.

Discussion regarding debris removal followed.

The Mayor stated that the city had its kick-off meeting with FEMA regarding public assistance, and project worksheets were completed. The city is trying to recoup money for the numerous items that were lost.

The Mayor announced that the shelter will be closing on September 30, 2016. There is a transition team in place to assist people with relocation.

The Mayor spoke briefly about properties that suffered substantial damage. He assured everyone that the city is doing all that it can to assist those affected, that the city is committed to helping these individuals as much as possible. The Mayor wants them to understand the process.

The Mayor stated that the Disaster Relief Center is here, and urged everyone to utilize the resources they have available.

The Mayor talked about distribution points, stating that we have one here at City Hall. He stated that there is also one at Redemption Life Fellowship Church, located at 2400 Debra Drive.

The Mayor commended the City Council for working with the Administration and for working together. He thanked them for all that they have done for the residents and the City of Baker.

Council Member Bryant encouraged everyone to take advantage of every appeal available to them with regards to disaster relief.

Council Member Jackson announced that Greater Faith Baptist Church, 2322 Chamberlain, will hold a donation drive on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Jerri Williams and New Covenant Ministry will begin their donation drive at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 17, 2016. She stated that both organizations needed volunteers

and asked everyone to participate. She also made an announcement regarding the MLRP and IHP programs being offered by FEMA. She encouraged everyone to go to the FEMA location at the Council on Aging for more information and to apply.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson 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 September 13, 2016.

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
September 13, 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 September 13, 2016, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS

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

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 Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 23, 2016.

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 Bryant, seconded by Commissioners Jackson 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 September 13, 2016.

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
September 13, 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 September 13, 2016, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

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

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 August 23, 2016.

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 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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on September 13, 2016.

Angela Canady, LCMC
Clerk of Council