

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
March 14, 2017
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on March 14, 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 John David Brumfield.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to add items “Recognize three women who have made history in the City of Baker (Heine) and Approve travel to the Mid-Size City Conference (Heine)” to the agenda.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Members Bryant/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 21, 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 the Baker High School basketball team (Mayor)
The Mayor and City Council recognized the Baker High School basketball team for winning the Wedge Kyes Tournament and having a fantastic 2016-2017 season.

2. Recognize Sailor Jackson for being honored by the Baton Rouge Area Association of Black Journalists (Mayor)
The Mayor and City Council recognized Sailor Jackson for being honored by the Baton Rouge Area Association of Black Journalists.

3. Recognize Mr. James Terry III for his contributions to the arts in the City of Baker (Alexander)
The Mayor and City Council recognized Mr. James Terry III for his contributions to the arts in the City of Baker.

Recognize three women who have made history in the City of Baker (Heine)

Council Member Heine recognized Council Member Alexander, Council Member Bryant and Council Member Jackson. He stated that he is very appreciative for all they do for the City of Baker, and that it is his pleasure to work with each of them.

Approve travel to the Mid-Size City Conference (Heine)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve travel to the Mid-Size City Conference.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTER

1. Approve business license for Moore & Moore Enterprise
Location – 12733 Wedgewood, Baker, LA (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for Moore & Moore Enterprise.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. 2017-9 – Resubdivision Request

Tom Cook

Proposed business – Waffle House

Proposed location – 14500 Plank Road, Baker, LA (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve resubdivision request 2017-9 – Resubdivision Request – Waffle House – Location— 14500 Plank Road, Baker, Louisiana.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

PUBLIC MEETING

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

1. Award bid for 2017 Road Rehabilitation Project (Mayor) (held over from 2/21/2017)

Dow Hillhouse with PEC provided an overview of the bids received for the 2017 Road Rehabilitation Project. PEC recommended that the city award the bid to Barber Brothers Contracting, as they were the lowest bidder. Mr. Hillhouse stated that two roads have been added to the project – Harding Street and Van Buren.

Council Member Alexander initiated discussion regarding the manner in which streets are chosen for such projects.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander that in the future the council goes back to selecting streets for such projects for their districts.

Discussion resumed.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Jackson to add the selection of streets process for road rehabilitation projects under Bids and Proposals to the agenda.

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 Alexander, seconded by Council Member Bryant to have council members involved in selecting the streets and that they ride the streets of their districts with city engineers.

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 Alexander to accept the recommendation from PEC and award the bid for the 2017 Road Rehabilitation Project to Barber Brothers Contracting.

Council Member Heine asked that Mr. Hillhouse review the numbers submitted by Barber Brothers Contracting.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Members Bryant/Vincent to accept the recommendation from PEC and award the bid for the 2017 Road Rehabilitation Project to Barber Brothers Contracting.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Admon McCastle, 14056 Brantley, asked PEC to provide specifics on the materials, processes and time frame for the 2017 Road Rehabilitation Project.

Discussion followed.

2. Award bid for Hovey Avenue improvements (Mayor) (held over from 2/21/2017) Dow Hillhouse with PEC provided an overview of the bids received for the Hovey Avenue improvements. PEC recommended that the city award the bid to Barber Brothers Contracting, as they were the lowest bidder.

Council Member Heine initiated discussion regarding the proposed improvements.

Council Member Heine stated that he would like to put a hold on this until such time that they can do some research and talk to people in the area.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Alexander to table the agenda item until further research has been completed.

Willie Williams, 14005 Longvue, stated that when this matter was presented to the Planning & Zoning Commission nothing was said about a partial overlay. It was their understanding that the entire road would be overlaid, and that's what they approved.

Discussion regarding the cost difference between a partial overlay and overlaying the entire road was held.

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.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

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.

John David Brumfield stated that he received the letter sent by the city regarding the property. He has taken over the restoration of 1780 Taylor Street, and asked that he be given an extension of 90 days.

Discussion regarding Mr. Brumfield's request was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Alexander to give Mr. Brumfield an extension of 90 days, with extension beginning March 28, 2017.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Joyce Burges, 2707 McHugh Road, initiated discussion regarding overgrown lots and the city's process for dealing with such properties.

Discussion regarding overgrown lots and condemnations followed.

The Mayor stated that he does not want to incur the cost of demolishing houses. He would like to see owners step forward and take responsibility for their property.

Discussion regarding condemnation notices sent out by City Attorney Fabre was held.

Council Member Heine initiated discussion regarding 3657 Buchanan.

Council Member Jackson asked about the status of the house located at 613 Charles. The Mayor stated that it will be included on the next list of properties.

Council Member Vincent asked how the LaMats program is going, as the City of Baker was the pilot city for that program. The Mayor stated that the high grass portion of the program has been implemented and is working. He said that work continues on the blighted property/condemnation portion of the program.

Admon McCastle, 14056 Brantley, asked why nothing has been done with the three properties on Lavey Lane.

Discussion regarding the properties followed.

1. 2465 Hovey Avenue (Mayor)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

2. 2647 Chamberlain Avenue (Mayor)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

3. 1748 Clark Street (Mayor)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

4. 2745 Chamberlain Avenue (Mayor)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

5. 1780 Taylor Street (Mayor)
This item was addressed previously in the meeting.

6. 1008 Epperson (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.

7. 3657 Buchanan Street (Mayor)
This item was discussed previously in the meeting.

ANNEXATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce 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)
Council Member Bryant asked for support from the council and the community with this initiative to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

City Attorney Fabre provided an overview of the proposed ordinance.

Council Member Alexander stated that 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.

Extensive discussion followed.

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

Joyce Burges, 2707 McHugh Road, stated that the ordinance passed by the previous council stands, and that ordinance provided for a committee. She asked that if the current council’s ordinance is going to establish another committee, then the committee established in the previous council’s ordinance be included. She said that all that needs to be done is come together – unify.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Alexander

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Alexander stated that she was abstaining from the vote because she feels that this council should have a second ordinance.

City Attorney Fabre provided further explanation of Ordinance 2017-8.

Myra Harris asked about the timeline and process for completion of the proposed projects. It was stated that the proposed marker and proposed bust are two separate projects with separate committees.

Discussion followed.

Valencia Burnett, 4202 N. Morvant Place, asked for clarification regarding the proposed projects. It was reiterated that the proposed marker and proposed bust are two separate projects with separate committees. She also asked if other projects are going to be done around the City of Baker. Council Member Bryant confirmed this.

Leroy Davis, 4312 Azie, suggested that the council have a work session regarding this matter.

Discussion followed.

2. Acknowledge receipt of budget report (Alexander)

Council Member Alexander wanted to acknowledge that council members received a budget report after the last council meeting. She wanted it stated in the record that they did receive this information following the council meeting.

Discussion regarding future distribution of monthly budget reports followed.

The Mayor stated, for the record, that the council has received budget reports for January and February 2017.

Council Member Alexander asked for a work session on the budget report.

The council scheduled a work session to discuss the budget report for Monday, March 20, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

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
 - c. Strategic Planning Committee
 - d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Admon McCastle, 14056 Brantley, expressed his concern about the fact that there has not been a community meeting. The Mayor stated that a community meeting with Senator Barrow is scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium. Mr. McCastle stated that he would like a community meeting which includes the Mayor, Council and state representatives.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Jackson suggested that the council consider having a community/town hall meeting, where all council members are present, so that they can hear from the citizens. She would like to see this happen sometime in April.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Jackson thanked Council Member Bryant for the community garden initiative and the Mayor for affording her the opportunity to recognize her constituent Sailor Jackson at the meeting tonight, Jerri Williams for sharing concerns with her, and Dr. Vincent for his statement regarding expanding the vision of the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. She also thanked everyone who sent her birthday greetings, especially Dee Martin and the Council on Aging.

Council Member Vincent said that the Founder's Day event at Southern University was wonderful.

Council Member Vincent asked again that a clean-up day be scheduled in the city. The Mayor stated that the Parish has scheduled a clean-up day, and recommended that the City of Baker participate in that event.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Jackson thanked Council Member Heine for recognizing the three female council members. Council Member Bryant thanked him as well.

Joyce Burges, 2707 McHugh Road, stated that Wal-Mart will begin closing at 12:00 a.m.,

it will no longer be open 24 hours. She said that while the question does not need to be addressed tonight, she would like to know how this will affect revenue for the city.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Members Bryant/Vincent 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 14, 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 14, 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 14, 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 Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 21, 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

Niketa King submitted a monthly sales report for February 2017.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Bryant to hold over the sales report submitted for February 2017.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

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 14, 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 14, 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 14, 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 Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 21, 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 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 March 14, 2017.

Angela Canady, LCMC
Clerk of Council