

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
3325 GROOM ROAD  
BAKER, LA 70714  
June 13, 2017  
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on June 13, 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 Reverend Greensberry.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Bryant.

**DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 23, 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 Reverend Greensberry of New Beginnings Baptist Fellowship Church (Mayor)  
The Mayor recognized Reverend Greensberry of New Beginnings Baptist Fellowship Church and welcomed him and his congregation to the City of Baker.

2. Recognize Tresa Jones for her phenomenal support of all women (Jackson)  
Council Members Jackson, Alexander and Bryant recognized Tresa Jones for her phenomenal support of empowerment, progression and equality in recognizing women's accomplishments in the City of Baker.

3. Recognize Kristin Robair for her phenomenal support of all women (Jackson)  
Council Members Jackson, Alexander and Bryant recognized Kristin Robair for her phenomenal support of empowerment, progression and equality in recognizing women's accomplishments in the City of Baker.

4. Recognize Tonya Williams for her phenomenal support of all women (Jackson)  
Council Members Jackson, Alexander and Bryant recognized Tonya Williams for her phenomenal support of empowerment, progression and equality in recognizing women's accomplishments in the City of Baker.

5. Recognize Portia Bell for her phenomenal support of all women (Jackson)  
Council Members Jackson, Alexander and Bryant recognized Portia Bell for her phenomenal support of empowerment, progression and equality in recognizing women's accomplishments in the City of Baker.

Council Member Vincent asked that City Auditor Melvin Davis and Mr. Tommy Lejeune be added to the agenda.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to add City Auditor Melvin Davis and Mr. Tommy Lejeune 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 Vincent, seconded by Council Member Alexander to add item “Resolution requesting that BREC eliminate any blight on the golf course along Lavey Lane (Mayor)” under Resolutions and Proclamations 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 Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to add item “Introduce Ordinance 2017-17, an ordinance to amend the City of Baker 2016-2017 annual budgets regarding revenues and expenditures (Mayor)” 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.

#### **PLANNING AND ZONING MATTER**

1. Approve business license for Clark’s Early Childcare and Development Center  
Location – 3615 Groom Road, Baker, LA (Mayor)

No action was taken on this agenda item, as no representative from Clark’s Early Childcare and Development Center was present.

2. Approve business license for MRJ Auto Sales  
Location – 15005 Plank Road, Baker, LA (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Members Alexander/Jackson to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for MRJ Auto Sales.

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 Alaina’s Play Land, LLC  
Location – 14504 Plank Road, Baker, LA (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for Alaina’s Play Land, LLC.

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 Rose Ella Boutique  
Location – 5015 Groom Road, Baker, LA (Mayor)  
Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

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

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

City Auditor Melvin Davis gave a detailed presentation on the audit findings for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Extensive discussion regarding Mr. Davis' presentation and the audit findings was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Members Bryant/Jackson to extend the meeting.

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. Resolution opposing moving the zoo from north Baton Rouge (Mayor) (Vincent)  
Council Member Jackson expressed her concerns regarding the placement of items on the council meeting agenda.

City Attorney Fabre addressed Council Member Jackson's concerns, offering his opinion on placement of items on the council meeting agenda.

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

YEAS: Heine, Vincent

NAYS: Alexander, Bryant, Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion failed with a vote of 2-3.

2. *Resolution requesting that BREC eliminate any blight on the golf course along Lavey Lane (Mayor)*

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

3. Resolution adopting the parish-wide hazard mitigation plan (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, 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.

**PUBLIC MEETING**

1. Ordinance 2017-11, an ordinance adopting the Capital Improvement Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the City of Baker, Louisiana for fiscal year 2017-2018 (Mayor) (Introduced 4/25/2017)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Heine to adopt Ordinance 2017-11.

YEAS: Bryant, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: Alexander, Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

2. Ordinance 2017-12, an ordinance adopting the annual Utility Fund Budget for the City of Baker, Louisiana for fiscal year 2017-2018 (Mayor) (Introduced 4/25/2017)

Public meeting was held.

Council Member Jackson stated for the record – I would like my constituents of District 5 to know that as your council person I am compelled to let you, as well as all the rest of Baker, know that I have some serious concerns about the budget and the way the audit was sent in to the state legislative auditor’s office. It is apparent tonight that it is still not complete. I would be remiss if I do not say how I truly feel. I still have a lot of concerns about the budget. So I want it to be known that I found out on April 25<sup>th</sup> that the audit report had been sent in to the state legislative auditor’s office without me eyes seeing it. We had a work session about it and I thanked Mr. Davis for coming to explain it. It still left me with a lot of concerns. And because I have these concerns, and you too listened tonight, and you heard that the budget is not completed. So I in good conscience, you elected me to be your voice, I believe in accountability, transparency, system of checks and balances, separation of power, and I heard talk about how important it is to follow procedures. We have them in place. I want to qualify why I am not in favor of this budget at this particular time.

Discussion regarding Council Member Jackson’s statement followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2017-12.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

3. Ordinance 2017-13, an ordinance adopting the annual Utility Fund Capital Improvements Budget for City of Baker, Louisiana for fiscal year 2017-2018 (Mayor) (Introduced 4/25/2017)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to adopt Ordinance 2017-13.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

4. Ordinance 2017-14, an ordinance adopting the annual General Fund and Minor Fund Budgets of Revenues and Expenditures for the City of Baker, LA for fiscal year 2017-2018 (Mayor) (Introduced 4/25/2017)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2017-14.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

Superintendent of Utilities Richard Jackson spoke on behalf of the employees of the Public Works Department. Mr. Jackson stated that the Public Works Department is not only short employees, but is unable to keep employees due to the wages being paid by the city. He asked that the Mayor and Council seriously consider giving Public Works Department employees a raise.

Discussion followed.

5. Ordinance 2017-16, an ordinance to provide for the posting of annual budget(s) to the City of Baker official website upon adoption by the Baker City Council (Jackson) (Introduced 5/23/2017)

Council Member Jackson asked City Attorney Fabre to read the ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Alexander to amend the language of the proposed ordinance to what was read into the record by the city attorney.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson

NAYS: Bryant, Vincent

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Alexander to adopt Ordinance 2017-16.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson

NAYS: Bryant, Vincent

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

## **BIDS AND PROPOSALS**

## **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

## **CONDEMNATIONS**

## **ANNEXATIONS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Abandoned and/or blighted properties (Mayor) (held over from 3/28/2017)

- a. 2465 Hovey Avenue  
No action was taken on this agenda item.

- b. 1748 Clark Street  
No action was taken on this agenda item.

- c. 1008 Epperson  
No action was taken on this agenda item.

- d. 3657 Buchanan Street  
No action was taken on this agenda item.

e. 613 Charles  
No action was taken on this agenda item.

f. 4506 Ashland  
No action was taken on this agenda item.

g. 4804 Biscayne  
No action was taken on this agenda item.

h. 5901 Biscayne  
No action was taken on this agenda item.

i. 6003 Biscayne  
No action was taken on this agenda item.

The Mayor asked to table these items.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Members Bryant/Vincent to table the abandoned and/or blighted properties.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

*Introduce Ordinance 2017-17, an ordinance to amend the City of Baker 2016-2017 annual budgets regarding revenues and expenditures (Mayor)*  
City Attorney Fabre read the ordinance.

Mary Sue Stages provided an explanation of Ordinance 2017-17.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2017-17.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Approve travel for DARE officers to attend DARE convention in Shreveport (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Bryant to approve travel for DARE officers to attend DARE convention in Shreveport.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Approve travel for Mayor and Council to attend the LMA 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Shreveport (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve travel for Mayor and Council to attend the LMA 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Shreveport.

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 – Will be held on Friday, June 30, 2017 at 6:30 a.m. Individual tickets are \$6.00. Tables are available for \$300.00.
  - c. Strategic Planning Committee
  - d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement – Will meet on Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Jim’s Smokehouse.

**NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

William King, 5550 Bentley, stated that the city needs a meeting. Whether it be a town hall meeting or one on one, there are issues that need to be addressed. Mr. King specifically mentioned cleaning the city up and having residents come together in order to help the children in our community.

Stephanie Murphy, 504 Rabel, initiated discussion regarding base salaries and actual take home pay of firefighters in the City of Baker.

Discussion regarding the difference in the annual salaries and take home pay of firefighters and the annual salaries and take home pay of city employees in other departments followed.

Oliver Sanders, 612 Cypress, an employee of the City of Baker Public Works Department stated that the Mayor and Council need to consider giving the Public Works Department employees a raise.

Kenneth Wackett, 14305 Felicity, asked that the city address the situation with the house located at 14225 Blairstown. He stated that the property appears to be abandoned, the grass is not being cut, and it may need to be condemned.

Chris Davis, City of Baker Public Works Department employee, reiterated the sentiments expressed by his coworkers, saying Public Works Department employees need a raise.

Council Member Jackson announced that she and her colleagues will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Baker Municipal Auditorium.

The Mayor stated that Restore Louisiana, a program for flood victims, will be discussed at a Town Hall Meeting scheduled for June 20, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Council Member Heine announced that an outstanding Baker citizen was buried yesterday – Mrs. Betty Fontana. He said that she was a great volunteer who did so much for the City of Baker over the years. Council Member Heine asked that everyone keep her family in their prayers.

Council Member Bryant provided an update on the petition for street dedication for the gravel road off of Groom Road near All About Storage. She stated that the petition has been signed and the project will be moving into phase two.

Council Member Vincent announced that there will be a meeting on Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the BREC offices on Florida Boulevard for anyone interested in voicing their concerns about the zoo being moved from its current location.

Tommy Lejeune, Faulk & Winkler, provided an overview of the city’s plan to address the audit findings. Mr. Lejeune stated that the plan has been submitted to the legislative auditor’s office, and they are happy with it.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to extend the meeting 20 minutes.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Discussion regarding Mr. Lejeune's presentation was held.

Council Member Vincent stated that it was a good meeting and we've learned a lot.

Council Member Jackson stated that it was a very productive meeting and time well spent. She said she is looking forward to the Town Hall Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

The Mayor announced that Traci Lang is leaving the City of Baker. He said that he has appointed Mary Sue Stages as the interim Finance Director for the next twelve to eighteen months.

The Mayor said that the budget will be amended so that fire department employees can receive their raise, and other city employees can receive their two percent. He also said that he will continue to look for ways to give all city employees a raise in the future.

The Mayor stated that work is being done on the Groom Road well.

The Mayor announced that the City of Baker Bethany Economic Development District passed through the House and Senate, so we now have a taxing district on the Plank Road side.

The Mayor said that the City of Baker, East Baton Rouge Parish and surrounding cities are working on a comprehensive drainage plan.

The Mayor announced that Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Darnell Waites will be held quarterly beginning Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. at the Baker Municipal Center. The event is designed to promote conversation, exchange information and discover ways to work together to improve the City of Baker and enhance the lives of our residents.

Council Member Bryant stated that in the future, she will be doing a block to block contact with her constituents.

The Mayor encouraged everyone to contact the city with any/all concerns so that the appropriate departments can be notified and the situation can be addressed.

#### **ADJOURN**

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Members Jackson/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 June 13, 2017.

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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  
June 13, 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 June 13, 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 May 23, 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 May 2017.

The motion was made by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Bryant to accept the sales report submitted for May 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 Commissioners Bryant/Vincent 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 June 13, 2017.

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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  
June 13, 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 June 13, 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 Bryant to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 23, 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**

Commissioner Vincent stated that Karen Franklin, a resident who lives on Felicity, will be at City Hall tomorrow to discuss her utility bill with either the Mayor or Director of Utility Billing Alice Sanders.

**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 Vincent 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 June 13, 2017.

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Angela Canady, LCMC  
Clerk of Council