

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
3325 GROOM ROAD  
BAKER, LA 70714  
July 25, 2017  
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on July 25, 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 Vincent.

**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 July 13, 2017.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

**RECOGNITIONS**

Council Member Bryant recognized Bishop Michael Smith and the New Covenant Christian Church congregation for hosting their community event on Saturday, July 22, 2017.

1. Recognize those who volunteered their time for the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast (Mayor)

The Mayor recognized those who volunteered their time for the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.

Lorraine Bradley  
Laurie Burden  
Vera Daniels  
Louella Harris

2. Don Jones to recognize those committed to students in the Baker community by teaching them to swim (Alexander)

Martina Domino recognized those committed to students in the Baker community by teaching them to swim.

Tegan Scott – Swim Instructor  
Blayne Pence – Swim Instructor  
Kahalil Jordon – Life Guard  
Collette Theriot – Life Guard  
Victoria Eure – Life Guard

3. Recognize those who participated in the Baker City Council “Educational Empowerment Awareness” city-wide Town Hall Meeting (Jackson)  
Council Member Jackson recognized those who participated in the Baker City Council “Educational Empowerment Awareness” city-wide Town Hall Meeting.

Denise Stevenson – First Quarter Community Squadron  
Coach James Trotter – Eagles Wings Track Club  
Annisa Stover – Unique Health  
Tia Brown Bonds – Alaina’s Playland  
Simone Higginbotham – SBP Non-Profit (help to rebuild homes)  
Tonya & Oris Williams – Flow Much Better  
Cathy Page – Baker Fire Department  
Chief of Police Carl Dunn – Baker Police Department  
Assistant Chief of Police Andrew Murphy – Baker Police Department  
Captain Kelvin Miller – Baker Police Department  
Detective Louis Hamilton, Jr. – Baker Police Department

**PLANNING AND ZONING MATTER**

1. Approve business license for Ava Miles  
Location – 814 Main Street, Baker, LA (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

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

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 August 2017 as National Immunization Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

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

2. Proclamation declaring August 2017 as Psoriasis 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.

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**BIDS AND PROPOSALS**

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**CONDEMNATIONS**

**ANNEXATIONS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. National Disaster Recovery Function Team to discuss long term recovery planning for the City of Baker (Mayor)

Sandra Bowling, FEMA Community Planning, introduced the team that will be working in the city to create a strategic plan for long term recovery. She provided an overview of the program to be implemented in the city in order to achieve the goals set by the community.

2. Administrative Update – Police, Fire, Finance, Public Works and Chamber of Commerce (Mayor)

Police – Chief Carl Dunn was unable to attend the meeting.

Fire – Interim Fire Chief Bonaventure reported that work has begun on the fire station and they hope to have the firemen back in the building in a month. He also reported that the Fire Department responded to 1690 calls from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. He stated that from January 1, 2017 to July 24, 2017 the Fire Department has responded to 954 calls.

Finance – Finance Director Mary Sue Stages reported that the Finance Department has concentrated its efforts on getting organized, and identifying and updating policies and procedures utilized by the department. She stated that they are preparing for year end, and continue to focus on bringing all account payables up to date.

Discussion regarding the selection of a city auditor, the City Council’s selection of Mr. Akanji with Bruno & Tervalon as City Auditor and the upcoming audit was held.

Public Works – Director of Public Works Julie McCulloch was unable to attend the meeting.

Chamber of Commerce – Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce Latania Anderson was unable to attend the meeting.

3. Schedule a work session to discuss City Council policies/procedures/rules (Bryant)  
Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to schedule a work session to discuss City Council policies/procedures/rules on Monday, July 31, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Council consideration of paving gravel road off of Groom Road in District 3 (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant said that the city has received a letter from Ms. Stone, a property owner on the gravel road off of Groom, which states that it is her intent to donate the road to the City of Baker.

Council Member Heine asked only that the city verify that the property is in fact in the city limits of Baker before taking any action.

Council Member Alexander asked about the fairness of committing to such a project given existing concerns in the city that have not been corrected, citing Mr. Derrick Smith and the drainage issue in Parc Chaleur subdivision.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Jackson suggested adding this topic to the agenda of the work session scheduled for Monday, July 31, 2017.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Alexander to add council consideration of paving gravel road off of Groom Road in District 3 to the agenda for the work session scheduled for Monday, July 31, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

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

#### **NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

John Abel, 3611 Epperson, asked about the status of the group home on Epperson Street. The Mayor assured Mr. Abel that the city has a plan to deal with group homes in the community, and asked that he be patient.

Discussion followed.

John Champagne, 3535 Harrison, asked why it has taken so long to get started on the fire station on Groom Road. The Mayor explained the city's actions with regards to repairing the facility following the 2016 flood. Mr. Champagne also asked that Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome be invited here for a meeting for the citizens of the northern part of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Council Member Vincent thanked Council Member Bryant for her community garden efforts, saying he has been to the garden twice and has certainly enjoyed the harvest. He thanked Council Member Jackson for the "Educational Empowerment Awareness" city-wide Town Hall Meeting. Council Member Vincent thanked those in District 1 who helped him with his back to school event this past weekend. He said that he is working to have a health screening on September 9, 2017 for skin cancer. He stated that he and the Mayor visited the homes on Lavey Lane and took pictures, and he thanked the Mayor and his staff for working with him on this and other issues in the city and District 1.

Council Member Bryant said that there is plenty of okra in the community garden, and asked that residents please come by and take some. Council Member Bryant stated that the council has appointed Mr. Akanji with Bruno & Tervalon as the City Auditor. She reviewed the Auditor Interview sheet and criteria that was used in the council's decision to appoint the City Auditor.

Council Member Jackson thanked the citizens for doing their part to make a better Baker. She also thanked her colleagues, once again, for participating in the Baker City Council "Educational Empowerment Awareness" city-wide Town Hall Meeting. Council Member Jackson stated that there was a tremendous response to the event, that residents have said that they appreciated the City Council coming together to work as one. She said that the residents feel as if their concerns are being heard and that action is being taken, and she hopes to host a similar event in the near future. She stated that she will not be attending the upcoming LMA Convention due to repairs being done on her home as a result of last year's flooding, but she hopes that upon her colleagues' return they will share the knowledge they have gained.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

The Mayor stated that today is his birthday.

The Mayor stated that all five collectors are out. However, repairs are being made and they hope to have them back up and functional in the next two weeks.

The Mayor said that the road work on Debra and Sandra is being delayed by the rain.

The Mayor stated that at least one of the houses on Lavey Lane is going to be demolished once the proper correspondence/notice has been sent and the process has been completed.

The Mayor asked that everyone keep in mind that in January 2018 the mobile homes placed here following the 2016 flooding will have to be removed. The City Council passed an ordinance following the event allowing mobile homes to be placed in the City of Baker with the understanding that they would be removed in early 2018.

The Mayor said that the city is part of a comprehensive drainage plan which includes East Baton Rouge Parish and the surrounding areas.

The Mayor spoke about the amazing job being done by the Public Works Department in cleaning out drainage and sewer lines. He said the men in that department continually go above and beyond in their service to the city. He asked that residents refrain from placing yard debris – cut grass, trees, etc. – into the ditches and drains, as this affects drainage throughout the city.

The Mayor said that he continues to do all he can to promote economic development and growth in the city. He feels that the newly created economic development district on Plank Road is going to be tremendous for the city and future development.

Council Member Vincent initiated discussion regarding the upcoming vote on relocating the Baton Rouge Zoo.

**ADJOURN**

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member 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 July 25, 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  
July 25, 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 July 25, 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 Heine to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 11, 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 June 2017.

The motion was made by Commissioner Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Alexander to table the sales report submitted for June 2017 until the report is signed.

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 July 25, 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  
July 25, 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 July 25, 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 Commissioners Alexander/Jackson/Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 11, 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 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 July 25, 2017.

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Angela Canady, LCMC  
Clerk of Council