

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
August 22, 2017
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on August 22, 2017, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

MAYOR

Darnell Waites

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Doris Alexander
Glenda Bryant
Pete Heine
Brenda G. Jackson

ABSENT

Dr. Charles Vincent

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Waites presided.
The invocation was given by Pastor Gransberry.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Attorney Fabre.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 8, 2017.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Bryant asked to make two amendments to the agenda. She asked that the first item under New Business be amended from \$27,000.00 to \$22,000.00 for the auditor.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Alexander to amend Ordinance 2017-21 to increase the audit fees by \$22,000.00 rather than \$27,000.00.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Bryant also asked that Ordinance 2017-19 be tabled.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Alexander to table Ordinance 2017-19.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognize Redemption Life Fellowship Church for hosting their Back to School giveaway (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant recognized Redemption Life Fellowship Church for hosting their Back to School giveaway.

2. Recognize New Beginnings Baptist Fellowship Church for their Evangelist Outreach Ministry program (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant recognized New Beginnings Baptist Fellowship Church for their Evangelist Outreach Ministry program.

3. Recognize Miracle Place Church for their participation in the Chamber of Commerce Back to School giveaway (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant recognized Miracle Place Church for their participation in the Chamber of Commerce Back to School giveaway.

Council Member Heine apologized to Bishop Sinclair for missing the ribbon cutting ceremony held earlier today at Joseph Storehouse #2.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTER

1. Approve business license for Joseph Storehouse #2
Location – 2200 Main Street, Baker, LA (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

Council Member Vincent arrived.

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 Joseph Storehouse #2.

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 to request an Attorney General opinion (Jackson)
City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

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

YEAS: Alexander, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: Bryant, Heine

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

2. Proclamation declaring September 2017 as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

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.

3. Proclamation declaring September 2017 as National Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent announced that a health screening will be held on Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Baker Branch Library.

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

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

Council Member Heine stressed the importance of supporting and helping this organization.

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.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Ordinance 2017-18, an ordinance to prohibit loitering, etc. and to provide for other matters relative to the same (Mayor/Heine) (Introduced 8/8/2017)

Council Member Heine provided an explanation and reason for introduction of Ordinance 2017-18.

City Attorney Fabre read the ordinance.

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to adopt Ordinance 2017-18.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Ordinance 2017-19, an ordinance to prohibit obstruction of drainages, ditches, streets, etc., and to provide for other matters relative to the same (Introduced 8/8/2017)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

3. Ordinance 2017-20, an ordinance to amend and re-enact Chapter 3 Sec. 3-81 (a) & Sec. 3-85 (b) of the alcoholic beverages ordinance of the Baker Code of Ordinances, concerning applicability and building location, zoning and licenses and permits (Alexander) (Introduced 8/8/2017)

Council Member Alexander provided an explanation of Ordinance 2017-20.

City Attorney Fabre stated that as city attorney he is duty bound to advise the City Council when they are doing something not correct or illegal. He said that Ordinance 2017-20, as it exists in its current form, was not properly introduced at the last council meeting. He refused to read Ordinance 2017-20, saying that it is not legal.

Council Member Alexander asked that the clerk read the ordinance. She stated that she is asking that this ordinance be adopted tonight based on past practice, as this has been done before.

Discussion followed.

Ordinance 2017-20 was read by Clerk of the Council Angela Canady.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander to adopt Ordinance 2017-20.

City Attorney Fabre reiterated that the ordinance has not been properly introduced, and thus not eligible for adoption at this meeting.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Jackson to adopt Ordinance 2017-20.

Extensive discussion regarding the city charter, proper procedure, past practice of the council and whether Ordinance 2017-20 was properly introduced, and therefore eligible for adoption, followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Jackson to introduce Ordinance 2017-20.

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

The Mayor provided an overview of the process that will be followed regarding condemned properties. Administrative Assistant Julie McCulloch made a correction for the record, saying that item number eight should be Taylor not Tyler.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Bryant to make the correction, and change the street name from Tyler to Taylor.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

1. 3657 Buchanan (Mayor)
2. 2647 Chamberlain (Mayor)
3. 1748 Clark (Mayor)
4. 1008 Epperson (Mayor)
5. 2465 Hovey (Mayor)
6. 4920 Lavey (Mayor)
7. 5002 Lavey (Mayor)
8. 1780 Taylor (Mayor)

The Mayor said that it is not the city's intention to tear down people's property. He said that the goal is to have owner's take responsibility for their property.

Discussion followed.

ANNEXATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2017-21, an ordinance to amend 2017-2018 budget to increase audit fees by \$27,000.00 (Mayor)

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages provided an overview of the proposed ordinance.

Discussion followed.

The Mayor stated for the record that the auditor's fee is \$87,000.00. This fee includes \$80,000.00 for the services and \$7,000.00 for travel expenses, as the firm that was chosen is out of New Orleans.

City Attorney Fabre read Ordinance 2017-21.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to introduce Ordinance 2017-21.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2017-22, an ordinance to declare certain City of Baker equipment and vehicles as surplus no longer needed for city purposes (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read Ordinance 2017-22.

Discussion followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2017-22.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Metro Council Member Chauna Banks-Daniel to provide an update on the Greenwood zoo removal debate (Vincent)

East Baton Rouge Parish Metropolitan Council Member Chauna Banks-Daniel gave a presentation regarding the Greenwood zoo removal debate.

Discussion followed.

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

Ginger Vann reported that she spoke with Mike Raby, Director of Golf, at the BREC finance meeting today. She said that Mr. Raby assured her that BREC is aware of the city's concerns and that BREC is responding to the city's requests.

Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor and his staff for working with him on various issues affecting District 1 and its residents. He also announced that a health screening will be held on Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Baker Branch Library.

Council Member Bryant announced that on Monday, September 11, 2017 there will be a recognition program for first responders. She stated that more information will be provided at a later date.

Council Member Alexander announced that the Labor Day Parade will be held on

Monday, September 4, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. This year's Grand Marshall is Chief of Police Carl Dunn.

Council Member Jackson thanked Ginger Vann for filling in for the Clerk of the Council, and welcomed back Council Clerk Angela Canady.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor announced that he has appointed Christopher Hunt as the new Fire Chief of the City of Baker Fire Department.

The Mayor provided an update on the drainage situation on Chemin Drive. He stated that the survey has been completed and they are ready to move forward with the proposed project. The Mayor said that the estimated cost of the job is \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00.

The Mayor stated that work is being done with regards to group homes in the city. Administrative Assistant Julie McCulloch provided an overview of the progress being made toward regulating these facilities.

The Mayor asked Ginger Vann to explain the long term recovery project that was submitted by the city. Ms. Vann explained the green program proposed by the City of Baker.

The Mayor thanked Chief Dunn for cooking for the senior citizens.

The Mayor stated that he continues to focus on strategic planning, and to that end he has asked the entire staff to prepare a list of accomplishments, tasks and goals for their respective positions. He hopes to compile the information into a concise and informative presentation that will accurately convey the city's vision.

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 August 22, 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
August 22, 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 August 22, 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 August 8, 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 asked who is in charge at the cemetery, the Mayor stated that Nikki King is the Cemeterian.

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/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 August 22, 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
August 22, 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 August 22, 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 August 8, 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 asked about the status of the city's water wells. The Mayor stated that the Groom Road well was completed today. Commissioner Vincent also asked about the status of the collectors. The Mayor stated that work is being done and he hopes to have the collectors functioning in the near future.

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 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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on August 22, 2017.

Angela Canady, LCMC
Clerk of Council