

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
September 12, 2017
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on September 12, 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 Pastor Cedric Murphy.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Willie Williams.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 22, 2017.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Bryant asked that the following two items be added to the agenda – a resolution adopting the Louisiana compliance questionnaire for audit engagement of government agencies and a resolution accepting dedication of private property for street improvements.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to add items “Resolution adopting the Louisiana compliance questionnaire for audit engagement of government agencies (Bryant)” and “Resolution accepting dedication of private property for street improvements (Bryant)” 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 Alexander, seconded by Council Member Jackson to amend item number one under Appointments to Boards and Commissions on the agenda – removing William Johnson and appointing John F. LeCompte to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTER

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring September 2017 as Prostate 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.

Resolution adopting the Louisiana compliance questionnaire for audit engagement of government agencies (Bryant)

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

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

Resolution accepting dedication of private property for street improvements (Bryant)

Discussion regarding the letter of intent to donate the street and the accompanying map was held.

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

Discussion resumed.

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

Julie McCulloch stated for the record that the right of way has not been given yet, this is intent only.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. 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 8/22/2017)

Council Member Alexander asked that this item be tabled until the next meeting.

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

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Ordinance 2017-21, an ordinance to amend 2017-2018 budget to increase audit fees by \$22,000.00 (Mayor) (Introduced 8/22/2017)

Public meeting was held.

Joyce Burges, 2707 McHugh Road, asked for the record what the original amount budgeted was and what the proposed increase will bring the total amount budgeted to.

The Mayor stated that the original amount budgeted was \$60,000.00, and the proposed \$22,000.00 increase will bring the total to \$82,000.00.

Discussion regarding the auditor, the city's expectations as they relate to the upcoming audit and previous years' audits was held.

Council Member Heine explained how the auditor was chosen.

The Mayor and Council feel that this year's audit will go smoothly. They are in agreement that city staff is prepared to work collaboratively with the auditors, thereby facilitating a positive experience and successful audit. Monthly updates will be provided.

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

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Ordinance 2017-22, an ordinance to declare certain City of Baker equipment and vehicles as surplus no longer needed for city purposes (Mayor) (Introduced 8/22/2017)

Public meeting was held.

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

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

1. Appoint William Johnson to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board (Alexander)
This agenda item was amended.

Appoint John F. LeCompte to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board (Alexander)

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Heine to confirm Council Member Alexander's appointment of John F. LeCompte to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

CONDEMNATIONS

City Attorney Fabre stated that letters have gone out.

The Mayor stated for the record that the city is not trying to tear down these houses. He would like to see owners step forward and take responsibility for their property.

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)

ANNEXATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2017-23, an ordinance to prohibit obstruction of drainages, ditches, streets, etc., and to provide for other matters relative to the same (Bryant)
Council Member Bryant stated that the city wants owners to be responsible for taking care of their drains.

City Attorney Fabre read the ordinance.

Discussion regarding the proposed ordinance and drainage issues in the city was held.

Council Member Jackson left the meeting.

The motion was made by Council Members Bryant/Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2017-23.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Present letter of intent to donate street to the city (Bryant)
This agenda item was addressed under Resolutions and Proclamations.
3. Status update on the posting of the city's budget on the City of Baker website (Jackson)
No action was taken on this agenda item.
4. Update on houses on Lavey Lane (Vincent)
Council Member Vincent stated that these properties are on the condemnation list, we can move to agenda item number five.
5. Update on ditches within the city and how they will be impacted by expected rain (Vincent)
Council Member Vincent initiated discussion regarding drainage and ditches in the city. The Mayor stated that the goal is to clean out every ditch in the city. However, it is not the city alone, residents have to assist in an initiative of this magnitude. Such an initiative is directly related to the need for an ordinance such as Ordinance 2017-23.

Council Member Jackson returned to the meeting.

Council Member Heine reiterated his belief that there needs to be an overall drainage plan for the entire city.

The Mayor and Council went back to item number three under New Business.

3. Status update on the posting of the city's budget on the City of Baker website (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson asked for the status of having the city's budget posted on the City of Baker website. She said she has looked, but has yet to see it posted.

The Mayor stated that it has not been posted. He said that he is currently researching this matter, and that he is not sure that it's the thing to do at this point. He said he is assessing the risk factor of such action.

Council Member Jackson stated that she appreciates his concerns, however, the ordinance was adopted on June 6, 2017 and she looks forward to seeing the budgets beginning with 2015-2016 posted.

The Mayor said that as the administrator and executive authority of the City of Baker until he feels safe – it will not be there.

Discussion regarding the adoption and enforcement of ordinances and the posting of the city's budget on the city website was held.

The Mayor stated for the record that he feels it is a liability with it being there, but because Council Member Jackson is insistent on it, he is going to do it.

The Mayor repeated for the record that Councilwoman Jackson is insisting, after he asked to continue to do the research and despite the fact that he feels it is a liability, that the budget be posted.

Council Member Jackson reiterated for the record that the ordinance was adopted on June 6, 2017.

REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Planning and Zoning Commission – Willie Williams stated that CRPC will be assisting the Planning and Zoning Commission with reworking existing ordinances.
2. Annexation Review Committee
3. Economic Development Team
4. Heritage Museum/Related Committees
5. ABC Board
6. Other Special Committees
 - a. Buffalo Festival – Will be held Friday, September 22, 2017 and Saturday, September 23, 2017.
 - b. Prayer Breakfast
 - c. Strategic Planning Committee
 - d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages reported that the Audit Committee has not officially met. However, they have been busy getting information together for the auditors. She stated for the record that the city is off of the non-compliance list.

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages went over the finance report with the Mayor and Council.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Joyce Burges, 2707 McHugh Road, said that the report just given by Mary Sue Stages would be ideal to put on the website. Mrs. Burges announced that Conversations Around the Grill, an event to raise awareness about prostate cancer, will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Save a Lot on Plank Road. She also asked that the Mayor continue putting information on the monthly utility bills, as residents do read the information.

Admon McCastle, 14056 Brantley, stated that he wants a dialogue started about naming a

street after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the City of Baker. He would like the council to pass an ordinance taking action on this issue.

Representative from the Louisiana Education Advancement Program stated that their non-profit organization wants to do a stop the bullying stage play in Baker. The event will be held on Sunday, October 8, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the Municipal Auditorium.

Stephanie Murphy, 504 Rabel, addressed Council Member Jackson, saying she feels that more research should be done before placing the city's budgets on the website.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Vincent said he attended an inter-faith prayer breakfast on September 7, 2017, and thanked those that attended the health screenings on Saturday at the Baker Branch Library.

Council Member Heine said the city hosted a very impressive Never Forget ceremony on Monday, September 11, 2017 for the city's first responders. He commended the Mayor and Council for supporting the event.

Council Member Bryant said God bless you all.

Council Member Alexander reported that she received a letter from Carl Stages with BREC saying that they have received a \$500,000.00 grant to begin working on an inclusive playground for autistic children.

Council Member Jackson thanked Roxson Welch for inviting the Baker administration and council to their ribbon cutting at the Youth Empowerment Zone on Government Street. Secondly, she said that what she says and what she does, is on behalf of her constituents. She respects everyone's opinion to express their concerns to be heard. She said she is a proponent, that when something has been passed and done, she has a right to express concerns about why it is not there. Council Member Jackson thanked her constituent for expressing her concerns, saying she is a proponent for fighting for her constituents – if it is legal, ethical and moral she will stand firm behind it. She also thanked Dr. Vincent for hosting the health screenings and said how much she enjoyed the event.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor told the Council that the documents they requested – a list of zoning violations and a copy of the contract with the new auditor has been provided for them tonight.

The Mayor announced that Tommy Mahan passed away earlier this evening, and asked that everyone keep his family in their prayers.

The Mayor announced that Building Official Scott Masterson's mother passed away, and asked that everyone keep his family in their prayers as well.

The Mayor said that Baker Forward can be seen on channel 117 and the new installment will begin airing tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. and will run for the next month. It features Council Member Heine providing the history of the zoo and the introduction of newly appointed Fire Chief Christopher Hunt.

Council Member Vincent initiated discussion regarding the list of zoning violations that the Mayor provided to the Council.

Council Member Heine asked that the overhead lights in the Council Chamber be repaired.

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 September 12, 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
September 12, 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 September 12, 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 Commissioners Heine/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 22, 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 other business to come before the commission. The motion was made by Commissioner Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Heine 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 12, 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
September 12, 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 September 12, 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 August 22, 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 collectors. The Mayor stated that at this time the collector on Debra Drive is up and fully functional.

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 September 12, 2017.

Angela Canady, LCMC
Clerk of Council