

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
October 10, 2017
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on October 10, 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 Council Member Heine.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Waites.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Heine to move item “2. Ordinance 2017-24, an ordinance to amend and re-enact Ordinance 2016-13 (Mayor)” from Public Meeting to New Business on the agenda for introduction.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Heine to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 26, 2017.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTER

1. Approve business license for Honore Motors LLC
Location – 3627 Groom Road, Baker, LA (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for Honore Motors LLC.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Approve business license for Baker Animal Hospital
Location – 4936 Groom Road, Baker, LA (Mayor)
Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Jackson to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for Baker Animal Hospital.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

3. Approve business license for Just Like Glass Custom
Location – 13214 Plank Road, 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 Just Like Glass Custom.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Council Member Vincent arrived.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Ordinance 2017-23, an ordinance to prohibit obstruction of drainages, ditches, streets, etc., and to provide for other matters relative to the same (Bryant)
(Introduced 9/12/2017)

Public meeting was held.

City Attorney Fabre stated that because substantive changes have been made to Ordinance 2017-23 it needs to be reintroduced at the next meeting.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Members Jackson/Vincent to table this agenda item and reintroduce Ordinance 2017-23 at the next meeting.

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

City Attorney Fabre stated that all of the property owners have been given proper notification. He said at this time the council can vote to take whatever action they deem necessary with regards to these properties.

The Mayor stated that he would like City Attorney Fabre to double check with the East Baton Rouge Parish Tax Assessor's office for any other concerned parties and their addresses and send one final letter in the hopes of having property owners take responsibility for these properties.

Discussion regarding the City of Baker's condemnation procedures was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Vincent to have City Attorney Fabre double check with the East Baton Rouge Parish Tax Assessor's office for any other concerned parties and their addresses and send one final letter of notification.

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 Bryant to remove 1780 Taylor from the condemnation list.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Discussion regarding the City of Baker's condemnation procedures resumed.

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. Approve \$55,000 Chemin Place drainage project (Mayor)

The Mayor stated that items number one and two under New Business are to be handled together. He said that should the council decide to proceed with the Chemin Place drainage project, the budget will have to be amended, as this project was not in the original budget.

Council Member Vincent asked if this expenditure will benefit the entire area or just the one resident. The Mayor stated that it will benefit just the one resident. Council Member Vincent expressed his concerns regarding such an expenditure, saying that he has several constituents in District 1 who have similar situations at their homes. Council Member Vincent stated that he was under the impression that the proposed project would benefit all of the residents in that area and that the cost would be much less than \$55,000.00. He said that spending that amount on one resident will have everyone in the city on them.

Council Member Jackson made a motion to table Ordinance 2017-25 until Mr. Smith is present. She also said that she concurred with Council Member Vincent.

The motion died due to lack of a second.

Council Member Heine said that there are individual drainage problems all over Baker, and if the council does this, they've left themselves open to something they can't handle.

He commended Council Member Jackson for trying to put together a plan to address Mr. Smith's situation. Council Member Heine stated that if any money on drainage is to be spent, it should be spent on the end, at out fall, so the water can drain out. He agreed with Council Member Vincent, saying that he would have constituents demanding answers and that the city address their situations as well.

The Mayor stated that he has done what the council asked and provided a study and what it will cost to possibly correct the situation at Mr. Smith's house. He reiterated that this is not something initiated by his office. The Mayor told the council that he would absolutely not spend this money without their okay.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2017-25, an ordinance to increase General Fund - Public Works Department expenditures by \$55,000 for the Chemin Place drainage project (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to table Ordinance 2017-25.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Introduce Ordinance 2017-24, and ordinance to amend and re-enact Ordinance 2016-13 (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre provided an overview of the proposed ordinance.

Discussion was held regarding state law as it relates to weapons given to retiring police officers. Also discussed was the previous ordinance which declared former Mayor Rideau's weapon surplus, thus allowing it to be presented to him on his retirement. In addition, discussion which dealt with the council's options regarding the auditor's request that the ordinance be amended, so that the weapon can be returned to the city and the Fraternal Order of Police reimbursed was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine to introduce Ordinance 2017-24.

The motion died due to lack of a second.

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 – Will meet on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Bernard's.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

John Champagne, 3535 Harrison, asked about the other weapons that were declared surplus in Ordinance 2016-13, those not given to former Mayor Rideau. Discussion followed.

Barry Sterling, 4025 Jefferson, asked that the city look at the property next door to him, as it has still not been cleaned up. He thanked Chief Dunn for all that he and his department are doing for the city, and complimented the Mayor on all he has done. He asked that the two continue to work together in order to move the city forward.

Council Member Vincent reported that the street light at the entrance to Feliciana subdivision is still out. He said that DEMCO has done nothing and it has been over a year since the outage was reported.

Council Member Heine said that the all of the street lights on Highway 19 from Singletary Drive to Baker Boulevard are out, and have been for months. He suggested that the city look at its franchise agreements with both DEMCO and Entergy in an effort to hold both entities accountable.

Council Member Bryant stated that District 3 needs trash pick-up along McHugh Road and in front of the community garden.

Council Member Alexander asked for new garbage cans for the residents on Epperson Street. She also thanked Julie McCulloch for having the bench at the Council on Aging cleaned.

Council Member Jackson thanked the Public Works Department for patching the streets up and for their timely response to her question regarding the vacant lot on Rue Jennifer. She also thanked the Mayor and administration for the travel policy. Council Member Jackson stated for the record, thank you Mayor, Ms. Julie McCulloch and the Public Works Department for a job well done.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Presentation of Vehicle Accident Repair Policy and Procedures (Mayor)

The Mayor presented the Vehicle Accident Repair Policy and Procedures to the council and provided each council member with a copy.

2. Presentation of Travel and Reimbursement Policy (Mayor)

The Mayor presented the Travel and Reimbursement Policy to the council and provided each council member with a copy.

Laurie Sherman with Faulk and Winkler provided an update on the audit. She stated that the audit team continues to be optimistic about their scheduled completion date of November 30, 2017.

Discussion followed.

The Mayor provided an update on the zoning violations that were on the list he previously gave to the council.

The Mayor announced that the Utility Department is having Customer Appreciation Day on Thursday, October 12, 2017.

The Mayor thanked Council Member Bryant for attending the play on bullying presented by LEAP.

The Mayor said that the circus was very well attended, and the city should be able to get them to return in the future.

The Mayor provided a status update on the situations at 988 Main and 1006 Main. The Mayor said he is focused on economic development and cleaning up Highway 19.

The Mayor thanked Chief Dunn for all he and the Police Department did at the Buffalo Festival.

Council Member Heine, on behalf of the Mayor and City Council, extended condolences to Chief Dunn on the loss of his father. Council Member Heine also stated that she missed the Clerk of the Council while she was away.

The Mayor asked that everyone continue to support Baker High School in all its endeavors.

Willie Williams announced that the Baker Long Term Community Recovery Planning – Final Open House Meeting will be held on Monday, October 16, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Baker Municipal Auditorium.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, 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 October 10, 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
October 10, 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 October 10, 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 Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 26, 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 monthly sales reports for July, August and September 2017.

The motion was made by Commissioner Alexander, seconded by Commissioner Jackson to table the sales reports submitted for July, August and September 2017 until they are 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 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 October 10, 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
October 10, 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 October 10, 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 September 26, 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 driveway repairs at Alief and Hico.

Discussion followed.

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 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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on October 10, 2017.

Angela Canady, LCMC
Clerk of Council