

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
November 14, 2017
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on November 14, 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 Bryant.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Jackson.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Bryant to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 24, 2017.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Jackson to add item “1. Resolution in support of opioid crisis legislation and programs (Alexander)” under Resolutions and Proclamations to the agenda.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to have the audit update given after Planning and Zoning Matters rather than under New Business.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognize Twahna P. Harris of The Butterfly Society for her work with domestic violence and domestic violence survivors (Mayor)

The Mayor asked that this item be tabled, as Ms. Harris was unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

Council Member Vincent arrived.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve business license for American Pawn #3
Location – 14640 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 American Pawn #3.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Audit update (Mayor)

Representatives from Bruno & Tervalon, LLP provided the Mayor and City Council with an update on the audit. They reported that they are a little more than half way complete, and they expect to have the audit submitted by the December 31, 2017 deadline.

Council Member Jackson stated for the record that the city charter says the completed audit should be submitted to the Clerk of the Council, and she asked that this be done.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. *Resolution in support of opioid crisis legislation and programs (Alexander)*
City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

Council Member Alexander reiterated the importance of helping those affected by this epidemic.

Discussion regarding the opioid crisis was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, 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.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Ordinance 2017-26, an ordinance to amend and re-enact Ordinance 1993-8, Section 9.5-51 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Baker regarding impeding drainage on streets or obstruction of gutters, ditches and drains (Bryant)
Public meeting was held.

Council Member Vincent thanked Council Member Bryant for introducing an ordinance that addresses all facets of impeding drainage in the City of Baker.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2017-26.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

ANNEXATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve travel for Ginger Vann to the Basic Economic Development Training course in New Orleans being held January 22-25, 2018 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Alexander to approve travel for Ginger Vann to the Basic Economic Development Training course in New Orleans being held January 22-25, 2018.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Audit update (Mayor)

This agenda item was previously addressed.

3. Discuss street lights in the City of Baker (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant initiated discussion regarding street lights in the City of Baker.

Council Member Heine said that he does not have a problem with Entergy, they do a great job. However, he has a problem with paying for services that the city is not receiving. He stated that there are street lights out all over the city, and that they have been out for months. Council Member Heine also said that this is the reason that he asked that the city's franchise agreement with Entergy be checked, because street light maintenance is part of the agreement. He encouraged residents to call the city or their council member to report street light outages.

Discussion regarding the city's protocol with regard to street light outages was held.

Council Member Vincent expressed his displeasure with the street light situation, and both DEMCO and Entergy. He stated that the street light at the entrance to Feliciana subdivision has been out for two years.

The Mayor assured everyone that the city will continue to work with both DEMCO and Entergy in an effort to resolve the issue.

4. Update on gravel road project – District 3 (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant asked that this item be removed from the agenda.

5. Reschedule December 2017 council meetings (Jackson)

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Members Alexander/Vincent to reschedule the second council meeting in December to Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

6. Update regarding shortage of personnel in the Public Works Department, Police Department and Fire Department (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson stated that she wants to do her part to help each department of the city to continue to protect and serve the citizens of Baker, as well as maintain the city's current fire rating. To that end, she initiated discussion regarding personnel shortages in the Public Works Department, Police Department and Fire Department.

The Mayor said that the city does not really have shortages, the city has openings and is looking for qualified people to fill those positions, and it's an ongoing process.

Discussion regarding qualifications for various positions and the city's hiring method was held.

Council Member Heine asked where the money to fund new hires was coming from.

The Mayor said that revenue has to be generated. He said it is imperative that new businesses come into the city – to fuel growth. The Mayor stated that the only way to fund new hires, and retain personnel is through economic development.

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

Terri Easterly, 2510 S. Magnolia, stated that her house was broken into in September. Ms. Easterly said that several of her neighbor's homes have been broken into as well. She expressed her concerns regarding the manner in which the Police Department has handled this situation. She asked that the Police Department follow up with victims and communicate more effectively with residents.

Discussion followed.

Barry Sterling, 4025 Jefferson, said that every neighborhood in Baker has a problem with people walking up and down the streets and those houses without any lights on are more likely to be targeted by criminals.

Derrick Smith, 701 Chemin, stated that the proposed drainage project in Chemin subdivision is not for one person, it's for everyone in the neighborhood. Mr. Smith said that they have a terrible problem with teenagers in his subdivision. He stated there have been shoot outs, people walking the streets with guns, people smoking weed, and that many residents are elderly and afraid to speak out. Mr. Smith said that we have to start somewhere and a greater police presence would be helpful. He said that the city has got to come together as one.

Discussion regarding the importance of neighbors looking out for one another or Neighborhood Watch was held.

Council Member Vincent asked about the process for acquiring replacement trash cans. Council Member Vincent said that he received a grant and attended the Louisiana Smart Growth Summit. He provided an overview of the topics discussed at the meeting.

Council Member Heine said that there are lights out in the parking lot at the court. He asked that they be checked so that the ladies getting off work in the evening do not have to walk to their cars in the dark.

Council Member Alexander stated that old bicycles are needed for the upcoming Mingle & Jingle event being held on Thursday, December 21, 2017. The bicycles are being collected by the Baker Police Department and will be refurbished and given out at the event. Council Member Alexander also asked that the city address a problem with the water at the home of one of her constituents.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor announced that Christmas in the Park will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2017. Festivities will include lunch with Santa at 11:00 a.m., a hayride, Christmas parade at 4:00 p.m., and the tree lighting at 6:00 p.m., followed by a movie in the park.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson 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 November 14, 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
November 14, 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 November 14, 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 October 24, 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 Jackson 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 November 14, 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
November 14, 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 November 14, 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 October 24, 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 November 14, 2017.

Angela Canady, LCMC
Clerk of Council