

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
3325 GROOM ROAD  
BAKER, LA 70714  
January 9, 2018  
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on January 9, 2018, 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 Willie Williams.

**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 December 27, 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 items be added to the agenda – approve business license for K & RD Contractors, LLC; approve business license for Essential Medical Supply, LLC; approve business license for J. Robins CPA, LLC, and a resolution regarding the life safety code.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to add the items to the agenda.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

**RECOGNITIONS**

1. Recognize Ebony Hills for her heroism (Heine)  
Council Member Heine recognized Ebony Hills for her heroism.
2. Recognize Greg Peterson for exemplifying an outstanding level of trustworthiness and integrity (Jackson)  
Council Member Jackson asked that this item be tabled.

**PLANNING AND ZONING MATTER**

1. Approve business license for CTI Auto Finance, Inc.  
Location – 14400 Plank Road, Baker, LA (Mayor)  
Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The Mayor asked that this item be tabled.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Bryant to table this agenda item.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. *Approve business license for K & RD Contractors, LLC*  
*Location – 2508 S. Magnolia, Baker, LA (Mayor)*

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Heine to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for K & RD Contractors, LLC.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. *Approve business license for Essential Medical Supply, LLC*  
*Location – 3605 McVea, Baker, LA (Mayor)*

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for Essential Medical Supply, LLC.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. *Approve business license for J. Robins CPA, LLC*  
*Location – 4001 Buchanan, Baker, LA (Mayor)*

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Alexander to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for J. Robins CPA, LLC.

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 January 2018 as Cervical Health 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.

Council Member Vincent distributed flyers regarding free cancer screenings.

2. Proclamation declaring January 2018 as National Glaucoma 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 Members Bryant/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. *Resolution in support of the City of Baker's fire prevention and safety awareness raising initiative (Mayor)*

The Mayor provided an overview of the city's upcoming initiative for fire prevention and safety. He reiterated the importance of such an initiative to the well being of the community as a whole.

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

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.

Council Member Alexander thanked Chief Hunt and the Fire Department for saving her house. She also asked if the Fire Department has enough trucks, firefighters, and about the status of the remodel work on the firehouse. Chief Hunt responded that the Fire Department has enough trucks, enough firefighters and that the remodel work on the firehouse is ninety-eight percent complete.

## **PUBLIC MEETING**

## **BIDS AND PROPOSALS**

## **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

## **CONDEMNATIONS**

The Mayor stated that both of these structures are burned and are beyond repair. He asked City Attorney Fabre to send the requisite letters, so that the condemnation process may proceed.

Discussion followed.

1. 1531 Robinson (Mayor)
2. 2190 Robinson (Mayor)

## **ANNEXATIONS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Introduce Ordinance 2018-1, sales & use tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to introduce Ordinance 2018-1.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2018-2, insurance license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2018-2.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Introduce Ordinance 2018-3, occupational license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to introduce Ordinance 2018-3.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Introduce Ordinance 2018-4, chain store license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2018-4.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

5. Introduce Ordinance 2018-5, alcoholic beverage tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to introduce Ordinance 2018-5.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

6. Introduce Ordinance 2018-6, property tax 6.22 mills (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2018-6.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

7. Introduce Ordinance 2018-7, an ordinance for the adequate posting of address numbers on houses, buildings and structures (Mayor)

The Mayor gave the city's reason for introducing the proposed ordinance. He stated that the adequate posting of address numbers is a public safety issue – that it is imperative for the safety of both residents and first responders.

City Attorney Fabre read a portion of the ordinance.

Fire Chief Hunt stressed the importance of having all addresses clearly posted. Police Chief Dunn asked council members to let their constituents know that the Police Department will assist anyone needs help posting address numbers on their home.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2018-7.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

8. Schedule a work session to discuss the city's sexual harassment policy  
(Alexander)

Council Member Alexander stated that she would like to revisit this issue once Council Member Vincent has completed the training course on sexual harassment. She said that after review, the city's current policy appears to be sufficient. However, she has concerns regarding retaliation. She does not feel that the current city policy addresses this aspect of a sexual harassment complaint.

Council Member Alexander made a motion that this item be tabled until Council Member Vincent has completed his training.

9. Name gravel road – District 3 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lane (Bryant)  
Council Member Bryant asked that this item be tabled.

10. Schedule a work session to discuss the audit (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant initiated discussion regarding scheduling a work session to discuss the audit.

Council Member Jackson thanked her constituents for their support and expressing their concerns regarding the December 19, 2017 council meeting. She provided the following narrative regarding that meeting. Council Member Jackson said that she learned at the December 19, 2017 meeting that the audit would not be submitted on time. She stated that she thought Mr. Akanji was in route, and when she was told that the audit report was not ready, she was surprised and disappointed. Council Member Jackson asked why the report was not ready. The Mayor said that the auditor could speak to council members in January. Council Member Jackson stated that December 31, 2017 was the deadline. She stated that the Mayor responded to her question, as did Council Member Bryant, and suggested that the auditor speak with council members individually to discuss the finer points of the audit. Council Member Jackson said we work for the people of Baker. She expressed her concerns about similar patterns with the audit.

Council Member Jackson stated that on December 19, 2017 she did not vote to have the meeting on December 27, 2017. She asked the Council Clerk to note the correction – she did not vote on the issue of scheduling a special council meeting. However, the meeting was held and she was in attendance. It was at this meeting that she learned, and it was confirmed, that not all council members were aware that Mr. Akanji would not be at this council meeting either. At this point she expressed her concern – when it comes to city business, if one council member knows, then all of them should know.

Council Member Bryant stated that lack of communication between Council Member Jackson and the Mayor was the reason she was unaware that Mr. Akanji would not be at the meeting. Council Member Bryant suggested that Council Member Jackson contact the Mayor on a more consistent basis.

Council Member Jackson took umbrage with the comments, and asked that she be given the opportunity to finish.

Council Member Jackson reiterated that when it comes to city business, if one council member knows, then all of them should know, saying that an email only need be sent to the Council Clerk.

Council Member Bryant stressed the importance of communication between all members of the council and the Mayor, and again urged council members to contact him on a regular basis.

Council Member Jackson stated for the record that council members have always

requested that all information be forwarded via email through the Council Clerk.

Council Member Jackson stated to her constituents that she was told on December 19, 2017 and December 27, 2017 that council members would be given a copy of the audit for review and would be afforded the opportunity to ask questions and address their concerns. She assured her constituents that she will always be their voice. She stated that she believes in transparency, and empowers them to hold council members accountable. Council Member Jackson said constituents should demand transparency and they should demand to know why there was a delay in receiving the audit. She thanked her constituents for putting her in office and assured them that she will be their voice.

Discussion regarding the scheduling of a work session to discuss the audit was held.

Council Member Jackson stated for the record that she has a scheduling conflict, and asked if she would be able to pick up her copy of the audit report prior to the proposed work session. The Mayor stated that would be fine, if the auditor is here.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to schedule a work session to discuss the audit on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.

YEAS: Bryant, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Alexander, Jackson

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

#### **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**

Barry Sterling, 4025 Jefferson, stated that his house was struck by lightening and thanked the Fire Department and the Inspection Department for all of their help with the situation.

Derrick Smith, 701 Chemin, asked what was going to be done in the new year regarding drainage issues in his subdivision.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Smith also stated that his neighbors are burning leaves.

Council Member Vincent announced that his annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. program will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Baker Branch Library. He also thanked the city employees for everything they do to keep the city moving forward.

Council Member Bryant appealed to her colleagues that as they proceed into the new year, that they continue to improve the city by allowing businesses to come into the city. She said council members can improve the community with individual services to help people. Council Member Bryant said that the council should strive for more communication and positivity. She said there are ordinances that need to be addressed and improvements to be made by working together in 2018.

Council Member Alexander thanked everyone who participated in the Mingle & Jingle event on December 21, 2017 for helping to make it a huge success. She said it was an excellent event.

Council Member Jackson thanked those in attendance for being at the meeting. She said to her constituents that they can rest assured that they have elected someone who will stand alone to represent them, someone who will display integrity, transparency and accountability. Council Member Jackson thanked the Pilot Club for the opportunity to be the volunteer tour guide for the Mingle & Jingle event, saying there was a lot of positive feedback regarding the event. She reminded those present that in order to get respect you have to give respect. She thanked Mr. Sterling for his comments and thanked the citizens of District 5 as well.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

The Mayor stated that he will do everything in his power to promote positivity, and that he will continue to work hard everyday in an effort to improve the City of Baker.

The Mayor said the city is currently looking for fire trucks to replenish the fleet.

The Mayor said that ordinances will be addressed in the new year. He stressed the importance of economic development as well.

The Mayor announced the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. program being held on Monday, January 15, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in the Municipal Auditorium.

The Mayor announced that Workforce Development will host an open house on Thursday, January 11, 2018.

**ADJOURN**

The motion was made by Council Members Bryant/Heine, 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 January 9, 2018.

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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  
January 9, 2018**

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 January 9, 2018, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

**COMMISSIONERS**

Doris Alexander  
Glenda Bryant  
Pete Heine  
Brenda G. Jackson  
Dr. Charles Vincent  
Darnell Waites

**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 Jackson/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 19, 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 December 2017.

Commissioner Alexander asked that the sales report for December 2017 be tabled, as it is not signed.

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 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 January 9, 2018.

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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  
January 9, 2018**

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 January 9, 2018, with the following members attending:

**COMMISSIONERS**

Doris Alexander  
Glenda Bryant  
Pete Heine  
Brenda G. Jackson  
Dr. Charles Vincent  
Darnell Waites

**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 December 19, 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 relayed a constituent's concern regarding his meter. He inquired about the functionality of the meter if the top is off and wires are exposed. The Mayor asked that he contact him with the constituent's name and address in the morning, so that the situation may be addressed.

**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 Bryant, 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 January 9, 2018.

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Angela Canady, LCMC  
Clerk of Council