

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
February 27, 2018
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on February 27, 2018, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

MAYOR

Darnell Waites

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Glenda Bryant

Pete Heine

Brenda G. Jackson

Dr. Charles Vincent

ABSENT

Doris Alexander

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Waites presided.

The invocation was given by Council Member Heine.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Bryant.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Bryant to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 14, 2018.

YEAS: Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

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 add item “1. Recognize Veronica Howard Sizer, Associate Pastor at Star Hill Baptist Church, for 50 Years of Life (Bryant)” under Recognitions to the agenda.

YEAS: Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognize Veronica Howard Sizer, Associate Pastor at Star Hill Baptist Church, for 50 Years of Life (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant recognized Veronica Howard Sizer, Associate Pastor at Star Hill Baptist Church, for 50 years of life.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve the dedicated utility servitude at 4675 Lavey Lane for Mr. & Mrs. Broadway (Mayor)

Administrative Assistant Julie McCulloch provided an overview of the situation and the proposed request.

Council Member Alexander arrived.

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 dedicated utility servitude at 4675 Lavey Lane for Mr. & Mrs. Broadway.

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 March 2018 as Flood Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

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

2. Proclamation declaring March 2018 as Month of Concern About Youth and Gun Violence (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant 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 March 2018 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent reiterated the importance of cancer screenings and early detection of the disease. He asked that everyone support the American Cancer Society. He also asked that they support the Cheerful Givers Z Team at the upcoming Relay for Life event.

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.

4. Proclamation declaring March 2018 as American Red Cross 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.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Ordinance 2018-11, an ordinance to amend installation/tap fees for new utilities services in the City of Baker and related matters (Mayor) (Introduced 2/14/2018)
Public meeting was held.

Council Member Alexander stated that she feels that the ordinance needs to be more specific, and questioned the use of the phrase “related matters.” She asked that “related matters” be explained, and the definition added to the ordinance. Council Member Alexander said that her concern is the possibility of the city raising water rates under the pretext of “related matters.”

City Attorney Fabre provided an explanation of the phrase “related matters.”

Council Member Alexander asked if “related matters” could be removed from the ordinance.

Discussion regarding removing the phrase “related matters” from the agenda and the title of the ordinance followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Bryant to adopt Ordinance 2018-11.

Council Member Jackson asked for clarification regarding exactly what is being amended – the agenda or the ordinance.

Discussion followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Jackson to strike the phrase “related matters” from the title of Ordinance 2018-11 on 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 strike the phrase “related matters” from the title of Ordinance 2018-11.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Vote was called for.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

2. Ordinance 2018-12, an ordinance to amend and re-enact Baker Code of Ordinances Section 14-1001 et seq. relative to illegal possession of marijuana (Vincent) (Introduced 2/14/2018)

Council Member Vincent stated that state law regarding this issue has changed and passage of the proposed ordinance would bring the city’s law in line with state law.

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2018-12.

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 stated that work on condemnations continues.

1. 1531 Robinson (Mayor)

2. 2190 Hovey (Mayor)

ANNEXATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve the purchase of one fire truck for the Fire Department (Mayor)

The Mayor explained the need for a new fire truck. He said that following the flood, the insurance company did not replace any of the fire trucks that were damaged. As a result, repair costs have been astronomical since August of 2016.

Council Member Heine said that he is in favor of purchasing a fire truck for the Fire Department. However, he asked that “when funds are available” be added to the approval.

Discussion regarding the procedures/process for the purchase of a fire truck was held.

Discussion regarding the budget followed.

Discussion regarding fire trucks was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the purchase of one fire truck for the Fire Department and two patrol vehicles for the Police Department when funds are available.

YEAS: Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Alexander

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Alexander abstained from the vote. The Mayor stated that in order for her to abstain, it must be approved by a majority vote of the council according to the city’s charter. Council Member Alexander maintained that she has the right to abstain from any vote.

Discussion regarding the city’s charter, parliamentary procedure and Robert’s Rules of Order was held.

2. Approve the purchase of two patrol vehicles for the Police Department (Mayor)

The Mayor explained the Police Department’s need for two patrol vehicles.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the purchase of two patrol vehicles for the Police Department when funds are available.

YEAS: Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Alexander

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

City Attorney Fabre read the section from the city charter relating to abstaining from the vote.

Discussion followed.

3. Present internal operating organizational chart (Mayor)

The Mayor stated that this is communication and he is providing it to the council for their information.

4. Present city policies (Mayor)

The Mayor stated that the administration is updating policies and he wanted to let the council know. He said that copies of all of the policies that have been updated are included in their packets.

Discussion regarding the city's updated policies and the Personnel Policy Committee was held.

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, March 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Lagniappe.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Vincent asked Finance Director, Mary Sue Stages, several detailed/specific questions regarding the city's response to the audit.

Discussion regarding these questions and the subsequent answers was held.

Council Member Bryant asked City Attorney Fabre to read the Attorney General's Opinion letter regarding presiding over council meetings.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Heine to adjourn.

YEAS: Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Alexander

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

**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 February 27, 2018.

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
February 27, 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 February 27, 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 Heine, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 14, 2018.

YEAS: Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Alexander

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS

1. Monthly Business Report

Niketa King submitted a monthly sales report for January 2018.

The motion was made by Commissioner Heine, seconded by Commissioner Bryant to accept the sales report submitted for January 2018.

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 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 February 27, 2018.

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
February 27, 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 February 27, 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.

Commissioner Alexander left the meeting.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Heine to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 14, 2018.

YEAS: Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Vincent thanked the Public Works Department for plugging the hole on Ector.

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: Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by 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 Board of Commissioners of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on February 27, 2018.

Angela Canady, LCMC
Clerk of Council