

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
August 14, 2018
6:00 P.M.**

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

Council Member Bryant asked that the council minutes from June 26, 2018 and July 10, 2018 be corrected. She stated that the ordinance introduced on June 26, 2018 and adopted on July 10, 2018 was represented and proposed by Council Member Glenda Bryant.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Heine to amend the minutes and add the correction.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Jackson asked that the council minutes from July 24, 2018 be corrected. She stated that there is no charge for the Neighbors Federal Credit Union Mascot Card, which helps support the City of Baker School System.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Members Alexander/Vincent to correct the minutes of the meeting held on July 24, 2018.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

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 July 24, 2018.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognize Faynetta Jackson for excellence in customer service (Bryant)
Council Member Bryant recognized Faynetta Jackson for excellence in customer service.

2. Recognize Denise Stevenson for rendering recovery services for Harold Eugene Cullens (Bryant)
Ms. Stevenson was not present. However, Council Member Bryant recognized her for rendering recovery services for Harold Eugene Cullens. She commended Ms. Stevenson for going the extra mile and said she appreciates those who do put special effort out to assist others.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve business license for Integrity Tax Works, LLC
Location – 414 W. Magnolia, 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 Integrity Tax Works, 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 September 2018 as Childhood 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.

Council Member Vincent asked everyone to support his Relay for Life effort – the Cheerful Givers Z Team and make a contribution to the American Cancer Society.

2. Proclamation declaring September 2018 as National Ovarian 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 Members Alexander/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.

PUBLIC MEETING

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

1. 1531 Robinson (Mayor)
The Mayor stated the council has the opportunity to vote to condemn this property.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Bryant to condemn the property at 1531 Robinson.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

ANNEXATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2018-30, an ordinance to amend the City of Baker 2018-2019 General Fund budget regarding administrative expenses (Mayor)

The Mayor asked that this item be removed from the agenda. He stated that a new ordinance will be submitted at a later date.

The Mayor stated that \$65,000.00 for the proposed drainage project in Chemin subdivision needs to be added to the ordinance. He said he wants to have both budget amendments on one ordinance.

2. Mayoral appointment of Nasheka Miles as City Treasurer (Mayor)

The Mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled.

3. Discuss temporary suspension of Ordinance 2016-18, regarding dung bags/horses, for the Buffalo Festival and Christmas parades (Mayor)

Discussion was held regarding the temporary suspension of Ordinance 2016-18, regarding dung bags/horses, for the Buffalo Festival and Christmas parades.

Council Member Vincent stated that he has no problem with it, provided that provisions are made to have someone clean-up after the horses.

Discussion regarding the process to be followed to temporarily suspend Ordinance 2016-18 and dung bags followed.

Council Member Alexander asked that this item be tabled so that research into the procurement of dung bags can be done.

4. Approve travel to the Louisiana Homicide Investigator's Conference in Lake Charles, Louisiana for Bryan Holiday and Kelvin Miller (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Heine to approve travel for Bryan Holiday and Kelvin Miller to the Louisiana Homicide Investigator's Conference in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Planning and Zoning Commission – Willie Williams asked that the council consider appointing a seven member committee to review and revise the City of Baker Code of Ordinances.
2. Annexation Review Committee
3. Economic Development Team
4. Heritage Museum/Related Committees
5. ABC Board
6. Other Special Committees
 - a. Buffalo Festival – The festival will be held in September and activities are scheduled throughout the month. There will be a rodeo, zydeco dance, beauty pageant, parade and 5K run.
 - b. Prayer Breakfast
 - c. Strategic Planning Committee

d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement

Denise Stevenson arrived. Council Member Bryant recognized her for all she does for the community. Ms. Stevenson asked for everyone's help with the recovery efforts at Mr. Cullens' home located at 4355 Heath. She said that remediation work will begin Saturday, August 18, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. Work will continue on Saturday, August 25, 2018 and again on Saturday, September 1, 2018. Ms. Stevenson stated that all volunteers and donations are welcome.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

John Champagne, 3535 Harrison, expressed his concerns regarding his utility bill. He stated that the city-parish portion of his bill increased by \$13.00. City-parish said that Baker residents will receive a credit once the City of Baker makes the necessary corrections to their equipment/system. He asked that the Utility Department use the resources available to them in order to facilitate communication between the city and its residents.

Brenda Singletary, 414 W. Magnolia, asked that the city cease sending bills to residents who use auto-pay for their utility bills, as this is an unnecessary expense being incurred by the city.

Council Member Vincent thanked the city for keeping the grass cut. He also thanked Kelvin Ridgley for working with city-parish and having the ditch on Sprucewood sprayed. Council Member Vincent thanked the city for what they do and for looking after District 1 so well.

Council Member Bryant asked Council Member Vincent the status of the Little Free Libraries. She also asked how to have two placed in District 3. Council Member Vincent reported that they are coming along nicely, and that he is working on grants to fund more structures. Council Member Bryant stated that she feels it is important for the council to begin working with the School Board to educate the students.

Discussion regarding ways in which the council can become more involved in assisting students in the City of Baker School System followed.

Council Member Alexander announced that the Pilot Club will help sponsor a forum for all School Board candidates on the third Thursday of October. She also stated that Rotary has completed their Little Fee Library project and they may be able to assist Council Member Vincent with his efforts. Council Member Alexander asked the Mayor to address the correspondence city officials received from the state regarding the water system. The Mayor stated he would do so under Administrative Matters.

Discussion regarding education and the school system followed.

Council Member Jackson thanked the Clerk of the Council for her assistance. She also thanked her constituents for continuing to express their concerns. Council Member Jackson stated that she enjoyed attending the LMA Conference in Lake Charles.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor asked Director of Public Works Kelvin Ridgley to address the situation with the city's water system. Mr. Ridgley stated that the state cited the city for four to five issues with the water system. He stated that all of the small issues have already been addressed. He stated that the city has implemented a plan to rectify the larger issues as well. Mr. Ridgley said that they will not be an issue moving forward.

The Mayor reiterated the seriousness of this situation and the fact that as commissioners of the Baker Consolidated Utilities Commission they are personally responsible. Therefore, it is imperative that all requisite steps be taken to maintain the system.

The Mayor thanked City Attorney Fabre for all he does.

The Mayor announced that there will be a Farmer's Market this weekend.

The Mayor announced that an event on domestic violence is being held August 30, 2018 in the Municipal Auditorium. The program begins at 6:00 p.m.

The Mayor stated that the Buffalo Festival is being held in September. He stated that the city is partnering with Southern University to host a rodeo on September 8, 2018 at the Ag Center. There will be a trail ride and zydeco dance as well. He said the following weekend there will be a pageant and the weekend after that there will be a 5K run. The parade will be the following weekend.

The Mayor said that everyone has to work together, be united, in order for the City of Baker to continue to grow and be successful.

Council Member Heine initiated discussion regarding the situation with the water system. He asked the Mayor and Director of Public Works if the city is on schedule to meet the timelines established by the state. The Mayor assured him that the city will meet the deadline. He reiterated the seriousness of the situation and that commissioners are held responsible.

Discussion followed.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Alexander 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 August 14, 2018.

Angela Canady Wall, 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
August 14, 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 August 14, 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 Bryant to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 24, 2018.

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

1. Henry Myers to discuss donation of headstones (Alexander)
Commissioner Alexander asked that this item be tabled, as Mr. Myers was not present.

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 Bryant 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 August 14, 2018.

Angela Canady Wall, 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
August 14, 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 August 14, 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 Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 24, 2018.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

The motion was made by Commissioner Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Bryant to adjourn.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

John Champagne, 3535 Harrison, stated that two meetings ago he asked how much money the city has in reserve for maintenance of the utility system. He said he asked so that the commissioners would know. Finance Director Mary Sue Stages stated that the city has budgeted \$275,000.00 for this year and those funds have already been put aside.

Discussion followed.

OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS

1. Monthly Business Report
2. Other Reports
3. Items Requiring Action

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

**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 August 14, 2018.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council