

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
3325 GROOM ROAD  
BAKER, LA 70714  
August 28, 2018  
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on August 28, 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 Mayor Waites.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Alexander.

**DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Alexander to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 14, 2018.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Bryant stated that she would like to add item “4. Recognize the Cooper family (Bryant)” under Recognitions to the agenda.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to add item “4. Recognize the Cooper family for exhibiting city pride (Bryant)” under Recognitions 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**

Council Member Heine recounted his harrowing experience with the fire that destroyed his home and his subsequent rescue. Council Member Heine expressed his deepest gratitude to Mr. Johnson and Ms. Williams for the actions they took which resulted in saving his life.

1. Recognize Terrance Johnson for true heroism and saving a life (Heine)  
Council Member Heine recognized Terrance Johnson for true heroism and saving his life.
2. Recognize Terrica Williams for true heroism and saving a life (Heine)  
Council Member Heine recognized Terrica Williams for true heroism and saving his life.
3. Recognize Rotary Club of Baker for their humanitarian work both locally and globally (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson recognized the Rotary Club of Baker for their humanitarian work both locally and globally.

Rotary Club of Baker President Tierney Bennett spoke about Rotary's worldwide efforts to eradicate polio.

4. *Recognize the Cooper family for exhibiting city pride (Bryant)*

Council Member Bryant recognized the Cooper family for exhibiting city pride by holding their family reunion in City Park.

**PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS**

1. Approve business license for K.M.C. Home Living  
Location – 4539 Groom Road, Baker, LA (Mayor)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

Discussion regarding group homes in the City of Baker was held.

2. Approve business license for Baker Garden and Supply, LLC  
Location – 3401 Baker Boulevard, Baker, LA (Mayor)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

3. Approve business license for Superior Autoplex, LLC  
Location – 14319 Plank 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 Superior Autoplex, 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 National Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent stated that he hopes to have present and recognize the Baton Rouge Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation's Ambassador Precious Washington at the last council meeting in September.

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Members Bryant/Heine/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 Heine recounted his church family's personal experience with sickle cell anemia and a young congregant named Marcus. He stated that he fully supports this proclamation.

Council Member Vincent said that he continues to advocate for making sickle cell testing readily available to the community. He asked that everyone keep these individuals and their families in their prayers.

2. Proclamation declaring September 2018 as Prostate 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 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.

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

The Mayor reiterated the importance of yearly testing for and the early detection of prostate cancer.

## **PUBLIC MEETING**

## **BIDS AND PROPOSALS**

## **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

## **CONDEMNATIONS**

1. 1531 Robinson (Mayor)

The Mayor stated that the city will begin the demolition process.

## **ANNEXATIONS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

The Mayor presented the new City Treasurer/Purchasing Agent Nasheka Miles. Mrs. Miles introduced herself and provided a brief description of her previous work experience.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to accept the mayoral appointment of Nasheka Miles as City Treasurer.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Present RFP for street rehabilitation projects and M.L.K. Lane new road project (Mayor)

Kevin Gravois, PEC, presented the RFP for the new M.L.K. Lane improvements project.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Heine to accept the recommendation made by PEC and award the bid for work to be done on the new M.L.K. Lane improvements project to Industrial Enterprise of Baton Rouge.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Kevin Gravois, PEC, presented the RFP for the 2018 street rehabilitation program.

Discussion regarding the bids received for and the method of implementation of this program was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Bryant to accept the recommendation made by PEC and award the bid for work to be done on the 2018 street rehabilitation program to Coastal Bridge Company of Baton Rouge.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Present plans for the refurbishing of Voter Registration office (Mayor)  
The Mayor provided details of the city's plan for refurbishing the Voter Registration office. The Mayor stated that the City of Baker is partnering with City-Parish on this project and the cost will be divided equally between the two entities.

Discussion regarding the amount of rent being charged/paid for the facility was held.

4. Update on water system write-up from the state (Mayor)  
Director of Public Works Kelvin Ridgley gave an update on the progress being made on the issues outlined in the water system write-up that the City of Baker received from the State. He offered reassurance that all of the issues have been addressed and the situation is under control. Mr. Ridgley also stated that the city is contracting with Thornton, Musso & Bellemin, Inc. for future water system maintenance.

Discussion regarding the City of Baker's water system followed.

5. Discuss Utility Department delinquent reports (Jackson)  
Council Member Jackson stated that she would love to discuss the reports, but she's not received them yet.

The Mayor said that an email was sent earlier in the day and that he would like to have a work session to discuss the reports in detail.

Council Member Jackson made the following statement for the record – As a member of this council I request information in a timely manner. I follow the rules and procedures, I even wait for the information to be given to me. I responded to the email response, I got this one late this evening, but I would still like to have the information that I requested beginning with the year 2014 to the present about the delinquent utility reports. This aging report, I appreciate it, but I would like to know more about it in order to engage in discussion. And therefore I would like, on record, that this Tuesday evening I would hope that I can have the report by the end of this week or by definitely Monday. Because when I request information, this is going to help me honor the oath that I solemnly affirmed to. To gather data that is going to help me make informed decisions and/or suggestions. That is why I wait patiently when I request information. I'm requesting it to expand my knowledge and to make sure that I do the best I can when I solemnly affirm to support the oath which is the state law and the constitution. Therefore, again, when I request information I would like to have the information that I requested. Thank you.

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages responded to Council Member Jackson's statement. She explained that a work session would allow for a detailed explanation of the city's collection process.

Discussion of the possibility of a work session regarding utility department delinquent reports was held.

A work session was not scheduled at this time.

#### **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 – The rodeo will be held on September 8, 2018. The 5K run/walk will be held on September 15, 2018. The festival will be held

- September 21-22, 2018. The Buffalo Festival Parade will be September 22, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
- b. Prayer Breakfast
  - c. Strategic Planning Committee
  - d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement – Council Member Alexander introduced Portia Bell – the new representative from District 4 on the Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement.

**NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

City Prosecutor Christopher Dassau announced that a domestic violence symposium will be held on August 30, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Baker Municipal Auditorium.

Council Member Vincent expressed his concerns regarding trash that is being left on the streets. The Mayor explained that there is a lot of trash to be picked up, but there is a plan in place to have the situation addressed.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Heine said that Red Stick Armature is currently working on their warehouse on Groom Road.

Council Member Bryant announced that the city had its first farmer’s market with the Grow Baton Rouge group this past weekend and it was absolutely great. She said that several residents have asked when the next event will be held and that it was really inspiring to see people come out. Council Member Bryant said that we are trying to promote healthy living in the city, citing the presence of two community gardens. She said one of the community gardens will have a pumpkin patch for the kids in October or November. Council Member Bryant announced that agricultural certification classes are currently being offered at City Hall. She said these classes facilitate participation in the community gardens and encourage healthy living. Council Member Bryant announced that the Second Annual 9/11 Commemorative Luncheon for first responders will be held on Tuesday, September 11, 2018. She thanked Baker Hardware for contributing seeds for the community gardens’ fall planting. Council Member Bryant said that she and the Mayor have spoken and they would like to bring services for veterans to the City of Baker. They would like to see the veteran’s organization find a home here, as the need for their services is tremendous.

Council Member Alexander asked if the city has offered the Southern University Agricultural Department property on which to grow medical marijuana. The Mayor said no.

Discussion regarding growing medical marijuana followed.

Council Member Jackson thanked the constituents of District 5 for continuing to share their concerns, and encouraged them to keep doing so. She also thanked the Rotary Club of Baker for the work they’ve done globally.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

The Mayor sent a shout out to Southern University, saying that there have been a number of classes offered which have not cost the citizens of Baker a dime. He said Southern University is becoming a great partner for the City of Baker. The Mayor thanked the leadership at Southern, and said he is looking forward to what’s happening.

The Mayor said that the Buffalo Festival is a big deal. He said the city is partnering with Southern University on the rodeo and he asked that everyone come out and support the event. The rodeo will begin at 10:00 a.m., there will be a trail ride and a zydeco dance featuring Little Nate that evening. The Mayor stated that the rodeo kicks off the month of Buffalo Festival activities – the stampede is on.

The Mayor said that in order for the city to grow, it has to go mainstream. The Buffalo Festival is part of the city’s effort to do so.

The Mayor concluded by saying that despite what is being said, he is not sick – he’s fine.

Council Member Vincent asked if the city will have it’s annual Labor Day Parade this year. The Mayor said the parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, September 3, 2018.

**ADJOURN**

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Members Bryant/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 August 28, 2018.

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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 28, 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 28, 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 Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 14, 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**

**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 Heine, 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 August 28, 2018.

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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 28, 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 28, 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 Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Heine to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 14, 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**

**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 Commissioners Bryant/Heine, 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 August 28, 2018.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council