

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
September 11, 2018
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on September 11, 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.

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 August 28, 2018.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. 1. Approve business license for Pointe Coupee Auto Sales
Location – 2002 Main Street, 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 Pointe Coupee Auto Sales.

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 Gynecological 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 distributed flyers which provided information on upcoming free cancer screenings in the Baton Rouge area.

2. Proclamation declaring September 2018 as National Cholesterol Education 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 Heine commended Council Member Vincent for keeping the people of Baker informed about various diseases that are out there.

Council Member Heine asked that everyone keep the family of late Mayor Paxton Branch of Tallulah in their prayers. Mayor Branch died unexpectedly earlier this month.

Council Member Bryant reminded everyone to be vigilant about having their cholesterol monitored, as high cholesterol can cause strokes.

PUBLIC MEETING

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

1. 1531 Robinson (Mayor)

The Mayor stated that the city will move forward.

ANNEXATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2018-32, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact Baker Utilities ordinance Chapter 25 and related matters regarding the same (Mayor)

The Mayor stated that he needs to sit down with the landlords to discuss the ordinance.

Discussion regarding the scheduling of a meeting with area landlords followed.

The Mayor asked that this item be tabled.

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 5K run/walk will be held on September 15, 2018 and all proceeds from this event will go to the Cheerful Givers Z Team. The festival will be held September 21-22, 2018. The Buffalo Festival Parade will be September 22, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Council Member Heine commended the Mayor on the Buffalo Festival Rodeo.

- b. Prayer Breakfast
- c. Strategic Planning Committee
- d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement – Will meet on Thursday, September 27, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Ruffins 3.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Sharon Olden stated that it was her understanding that she was to be on the agenda for tonight's meeting. Ms. Olden has applied for her occupational license at 4539 Groom Road. The Mayor and Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman Willie Williams explained the reason Ms. Olden was not placed on tonight's agenda.

Sandra Hickman, Meadows of Chaleur, expressed her concerns about the increase in utility bills. Mrs. Hickman also asked if the water system has been corrected. The Mayor explained the recent increase in the utility bills.

Discussion followed.

The Mayor assured Mrs. Hickman that the water system has been corrected.

The Mayor addressed an ongoing drainage problem in Meadows of Chaleur subdivision. He said the Public Works Department will be blowing out the lines in that area tomorrow in an effort to rectify the drainage situation.

Discussion followed.

Robert Williston expressed his concerns regarding lawn service people blowing their debris into ditches, thus affecting drainage throughout the city.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor for the trash pick-up that was completed on Alba Drive. However, only a portion of the trash at this location was removed. The Mayor explained the actions being taken to remove trash from the city. Council Member Vincent asked again that PEC consider a partial overlay of several streets in District 1.

Council Member Bryant stated that the Mayor, Baker Funeral Home and she hosted the Second Annual 9/11 Commemorative Lunch today. The lunch included a beautiful candle lighting ceremony that was very touching and emotional. Council Member Bryant thanked everyone for coming out.

Council Member Alexander stated that the Rotary Club of Baker attended today's 9/11 Commemorative Lunch. Fellow Rotarian Scott Haynes co-sponsored the event. Council Member Alexander initiated discussion regarding water certification and current city employees. She said she is concerned about current employees losing their jobs.

Council Member Jackson thanked her constituents from Meadows of Chaleur for attending tonight's meeting and expressing their concerns. She encouraged all of the residents in District 5 to continue reaching out to her by email, phone or text message. Council Member Jackson stated that she still has not received the information that she requested regarding delinquent utility reports. She stated for the record – When I request information it's to expand my knowledge, to help make informed decisions or offer suggestions. But most importantly, to help me honor the oath that I solemnly affirmed to. And I would appreciate receiving the requested information. Council Member Jackson said that as a member of this council she is entitled to the information she requested. She noted that her requests for information have been met with resistance, and this is something she does not understand. She is asking that she have the requested information by the close of business on Thursday. The Mayor stated that she has received the information, that he has given her what he has, and invited her to come in so that they can go over the information. Council Member Jackson reiterated the importance of being given information in a timely fashion, saying again that this is vital to her role as a council member. She also asked that the city's budgets be posted on the city website as per Ordinance 2017-16, as it has been over a year since implementation

and it has not been done.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor stated that the city is taking on a lot of debt. He said the he and his staff have researched and implemented initiatives to save money. The Mayor stated that outsourcing has helped with these efforts.

The Mayor stated that the city's infrastructure really needs some work. He said that before raising water rates he will send a letter to all Baker residents explaining the city's needs/reasoning. He says that in order for the city to grow, it has to be able to expand out for what's coming. He stated that the city has to be able to meet the needs of the businesses they are trying to get to come here.

The Mayor reminded everyone that we have to shop Baker. He said he is actively trying to expand the city by focusing on economic development. The Mayor stated that everything the city is doing in order to accomplish this goal is based on Quality of Place/Quality of Life.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant 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 September 11, 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
September 11, 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 September 11, 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 Alexander to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 28, 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 Commissioners Alexander/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 September 11, 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
September 11, 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 September 11, 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 Commissioners Alexander/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 28, 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. For consideration and approval – updated and amended utilities services application forms and agreements for new residential customers and new commercial customers etc. (Waites)

Commissioner Waites asked that this item be tabled.

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 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 September 11, 2018.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council