

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
November 13, 2018
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on November 13, 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 City Attorney Fabre.

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 October 23, 2018.

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 Bryant, seconded by Council Member Heine to add item “4. Schedule a work session with Government Consultants (Bryant)” under New Business 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 and declare Kye Black ambassador of World Prematurity Month in the City of Baker (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander to declare Kye Black ambassador of World Prematurity Month in the City of Baker.

With no objections – the motion passed.

The Mayor recognized and declared Kye Black ambassador of World Prematurity Month in the City of Baker.

Council Member Bryant recognized Barbara Johnson and Ora Lee Guidry for their service to the community. Ms. Johnson and Ms. Guidry were unable to attend the meeting tonight. Council Member Bryant said she will give them their certificates at a family function at a later date.

2. Recognize Ora Lee Guidry for her service to the community (Bryant)

3. Recognize Barbara Johnson for her service to the community (Bryant)
4. Recognize Dione Dunn for her service to the community (Bryant)
Council Member Bryant recognized Dione Dunn for her service to the community. Mrs. Dunn was unable to attend tonight's meeting.
5. Recognize Mayor Darnell Waites for his military service – United States Army veteran (Bryant)
Council Member Bryant recognized Mayor Darnell Waites for his military service in the United States Army.
6. Recognize Mr. & Mrs. Kent for the rescues they performed off Charlton Road during the Great Flood of 2016 (Chief Dunn)
Chief of Police Carl Dunn recognized Mr. & Mrs. Kent for the rescues they performed off Charlton Road during the Great Flood of 2016.
7. Recognize the Baker-Zachary Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for their service and commitment of time to the Baker community (Jackson)
Council Member Jackson recognized the Baker-Zachary Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for their service and commitment of time to the Baker community.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve business license for Elegance Furniture, LLC
Location – 312 Main Street, Baker, LA (Mayor)
Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Members Alexander/Vincent to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for Elegance Furniture, LLC.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. **2018-30 – Re-Zoning Request**
Jimmy Boyle
Lots H-5, 3312 Baker Blvd, changing from C -2 To L-1, Located in Section 29, Township 5 South, and Range 1 East. Greensburg Land District, Baker, LA (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Members Heine/Vincent to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the re-zoning request for Jimmy Boyle at 3312 Baker Boulevard.

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 November 2018 as World Prematurity Month and November 17, 2018 World Prematurity Day in the City of Baker (Mayor)
City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, 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 November 2018 as National Diabetes 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.

PUBLIC MEETING

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Appoint Valerie Hills to the Municipal Civil Service Board (Mayor)
2. Appoint Steve Noble to the Municipal Civil Service Board (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Heine to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Valerie Hills and Steve Noble to the Municipal Civil Service Board.

Council Member Jackson stated she will abstain from voting due to concerns she has regarding the appointment process.

Council Member Alexander stated she is abstaining as well.

Council Member Heine stated that after reading Ms. Hills' resume, he feels the city is very fortunate to get someone with those credentials to serve on the board.

Council Member Alexander stated that will abstain from voting because the process was not followed. She feels that if the council is allowed to vote on the appointment of these two individuals, then they should be allowed to vote on the appointment of all.

The vote was called for on the previously made motion and second to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Valerie Hills and Steve Noble to the Municipal Civil Service Board.

YEAS: Bryant, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Alexander, Jackson

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Heine to accept Council Member Jackson's request to abstain.

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 Jackson to accept Council Member Alexander's request to abstain.

Council Member Jackson stated for the record – It's nothing personal against the candidates, Valerie Hills or Mr. Steve Noble, I've had the pleasure of working with Mr. Steve Noble. I'm more concerned about following rules and procedures.

CONDEMNATIONS

1. 1531 Robinson (Mayor)

The Mayor stated that the house is gone and should be cleaned off. Area residents reported that the house has been torn down, however the debris remains. The Mayor said that they will talk to the owner about having the debris removed. Council Member Jackson asked if there will be a timeline regarding this property. The Mayor stated that they will talk to the owner, and if he doesn't have the debris removed, the city will clean the lot and bill the owner.

2. 2098 Hovey (Mayor)

The Mayor stated that this is a burnt house that has been condemned. He said the council can vote tonight to condemn the house and have it torn down.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Alexander to tear down the house at 2098 Hovey.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The Mayor stated for the record that the council has voted to knock it down, which means that the city is going to incur a cost.

ANNEXATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2018-33 (Mayor)

The Mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled.

2. Schedule a work session with DEQ concerning air quality in the City of Baker (Bryant)
Council Member Bryant asked that this agenda item be tabled.

3. Discuss distribution of funds from the Buffalo Festival (Bryant)
Council Member Bryant asked that this agenda item be tabled.

4. *Schedule a work session with Government Consultants (Bryant)*

The Mayor asked David Riggins, Government Consultants, to explain the reason for the work session.

Mr. Riggins provided an overview of the services offered by Government Consultants and the benefits of joining the LCDA.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to schedule a work session for Monday, November 19, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the natural gas prepay structure for large volume users in the Baker geographic area and joining the LCDA.

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
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 – Chief Dunn stated that the board will meet in December at Lagniappe.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Sharon Rafe, 1535 Robinson, asked for a final date for the work at 1531 Robinson. The Mayor said if it's not done by the end of the week, the city will go and pick it up.

Ms. Rafe stated that it would be nice if the Mayor would meet with constituents by district.

Sandra Hickman, Meadows of Chaleur, expressed her disappointment with the Mayor regarding the lack of acknowledgement of their meeting and failure to attend said meeting.

John Champagne, 3535 Harrison, asked that the Mayor's report on the Buffalo Festival include the following – how much manpower the city put into the event and how many of the schools participated.

Discussion followed.

Sharon Rafe, 1535 Robinson, asked that city officials refrain from naming anything else in the city after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Council Member Vincent expressed concerns regarding water meter connectors being used on cast iron pipes. He said that the fact that they are bursting was brought to his attention by a constituent.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Vincent also expressed his concerns and initiated discussion regarding sidewalks that are collapsing throughout the city.

Council Member Heine commended the administration for the road overlay program.

Council Member Bryant said that she plans to host a Town Hall Meeting in District 3 in December. She said she loves the City of Baker and she apologized if it seems they are not reaching out enough to those in the community about the concerns they have. She also said she would like to receive air quality reports on a regular basis.

Council Member Alexander expressed how glad she is that people are working to make their community a historical place.

Council Member Jackson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and gave a special recognition to newly elected school board members – Ms. Parker and Ms. Booker. She thanked the constituents of District 5 that were present and acknowledged their concerns. Council Member Jackson asked Ms. Rafe for clarification of her previous request – Ms. Rafe would like a Town Hall Meeting with all of the council members and Mayor in attendance.

Discussion regarding a Town Hall Meeting followed.

Council Member Jackson expressed her appreciation for all of the civic and social organizations that have contributed to the growth and improvement of the City of Baker.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor said they plan to work with HUD and use grants to redevelop the Jefferson Street and Leland College areas.

The Mayor stated that he is not opposed to Town Hall Meetings, he just feels that meetings with smaller groups are often more productive.

The Mayor said that the administration continues to plan and work to grow the City of Baker.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member 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.

Council Member Alexander left the meeting.

**CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

I, Angela Canady Wall, certify that I am 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 November 13, 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
November 13, 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 November 13, 2018, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS

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

ABSENT

Doris Alexander

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 October 23, 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

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 Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Heine 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 Wall, certify that I am 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 November 13, 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
November 13, 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 November 13, 2018, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

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

ABSENT

Doris Alexander

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 Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 23, 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

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 Bryant/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 Wall, certify that I am 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 November 13, 2018.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council