

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
January 8, 2019
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on January 8, 2019, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

MAYOR

Darnell Waites

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Doris Alexander

Pete Heine

Brenda G. Jackson

Dr. Charles Vincent

ABSENT

Glenda Bryant

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Waites presided.

The invocation was given by Mayor Waites.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Vincent.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 18, 2018.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve business license for 2 Vets Automotive LLC

Location – 1866 Main Street, 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 2 Vets Automotive LLC.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Approve business license for Bayou Bengal Auto Sales, LLC

Location – 15005 Plank Road, Baker, LA (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Alexander to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for Bayou Bengal Auto Sales, LLC.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None
ABSENT: Bryant
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

3. Approve business license for 225 Snobiz
Location – 4692 Groom Road, 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 225 Snobiz.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

4. Approve business license for Ponderosa Garden, LLC
Location – 3010 Ray Weiland Drive, Baker, LA (Mayor)

The Mayor went through the minutes from the council meeting held on December 11, 2018 with regards to Mr. Dike and his application for a business license. The Mayor clarified that Mr. Dike was asked to present a written business plan and that the council voted to give him 60 days to meet the requirements that were set forth. Mr. Dike stated that he submitted his business plan to the Planning & Zoning Commission at their meeting on December 20, 2018. Mr. Dike then submitted his business plan to the Mayor and City Council.

The Mayor stated that the council can vote on this issue tonight if they so choose. One of the most pressing matters in this situation is the apparent lack of adequate parking at Mr. Dike's location. The Mayor said that Mr. Dike has submitted letters from neighboring businesses stating that Mr. Dike can use their parking spaces for his business. However, it is unclear if this is a viable resolution to the question of adequate parking.

Discussion followed regarding the nature of the business to be operated by Mr. Dike, as was the sale of alcohol at the facility and available parking at Mr. Dike's establishment.

Council Member Heine expressed his concerns about the apparent lack of adequate parking, stating that the law is very clear on the required number of spaces for a business, and any vote other than No is not possible. Council Member Jackson agreed with Council Member Heine. She said she will honor the 60 days that the council voted to give Mr. Dike, but she can not support this as it is being presented. For her, the parking is the issue. She said that she can not approve this – that she will be voting No.

Discussion regarding parking resumed.

The Mayor asked that the item be tabled, so that it can be sent through legal. He asked that Mr. Dike return to the next council meeting. The Mayor told Mr. Dike that he will be coming back to the council and that body will make a decision.

Council Member Vincent asked that Mr. Dike take the allotted time and do all that the Mayor has asked so that they can move forward.

Mr. Dike agreed and left the meeting.

Council Member Heine said this has been going on for too long. The Mayor said the council can make its decision in two weeks if they'd like.

Council Member Jackson stated the reason she asked about the 60 days granted to Mr. Dike is because she was ready to make a motion tonight. She will vote No – her concern is the lack of adequate parking. She said you have to understand the laws and ordinances of the city.

5. Approve business license for Bayou Ice, LLC
Location – 14616 Plank Road, Baker, LA (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.

6. Approve business license for Bayou Ice, LLC
Location – 150-A Main Street, Baker, LA (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.

7. Approve business license for Funky Fingers Production Studio
Location – 1080 Main Street, Baker, LA (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.

8. Approve business license for WB Shedd & Co., LLC
Location – 3312 Baker Boulevard, Baker, LA (Mayor)
The Mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled.

City Attorney Fabre recommended that agenda items five through seven under Planning and Zoning Matters be removed from the agenda.

Discussion regarding the placement of items under Planning and Zoning Matters on the agenda was held.

9. **2018-40 – Subdivision and Annexation Request**
Kermit Johnson
Location: Lots 1-E-1 and 1-E-2, 1-A, 1-B & 1-C Sunshine Gardens into Lots 1-E- 2-A, 1-E-1A, 1-E-1-B, 1-E-1-C, 1-E-1-D, 1-A-1, 1-B-1 & 1-C-1 (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 subdivision and annexation request for Kermit Johnson.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

10. **2018-41 – Re-subdivision Request**
Kirk Williams
Location: 38 Acres Tract located on the north side of Groom rd., west side of Baker Canal extending to Wilson Street. To separate five acre tract from larger tract for Residential and Agricultural use. Located in section 29, Township 5 South, range 1 East Greenburg Land District, Baker, Louisiana (Mayor)
Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Jackson to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the resubdivision request for Kirk Williams.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring January 2019 as Cervical Health 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, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Proclamation declaring January 2019 as National Glaucoma 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, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Heine asked that item number ten under New Business be moved up on the agenda.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Jackson to move item "10. Discuss group home on Texas Street (Heine)" under New Business up on the agenda.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

10. *Discuss group home on Texas Street (Heine)*

Council Member Heine initiated discussion regarding the problems that his neighbors are having with individuals living at the group home on Texas Street.

Several residents of Texas Street detailed transgressions by and interactions with these individuals. They reported that the Baker Police Department has been contacted countless times to address the situation, but there has been no resolution. Police Chief Dunn stated that the police department is committed to resolving the issue and urged residents to continue notifying his department when problems arise.

Residents were also encouraged to report all incidences to LDHH so that a record or "paper trail" is created. They were told the more documentation there is, the more likely corrective measures will be taken.

PUBLIC MEETING

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

1. 2098 Hovey (Mayor)

The Mayor stated that he will give another two weeks, and if nothing has been done at that point, the city will move forward with the condemnation.

ANNEXATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2018-33, an ordinance to amend the operating budget of governmental funds general fund revenues and expenditures special revenue funds revenues and expenditures City of Baker, LA fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 (Mayor)

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages provided an overview of the ordinance and a summary of the budget amendments to be made.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine to introduce Ordinance 2018-33.

The motion failed due to lack of a second.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2018-35, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact Baker Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12 (Floods), Article I (In General) and Article II (Flood Damage Prevention), particularly Sections 12-44 through 12-46, and related matters (Mayor)

Administrative Officer Julie McCulloch provided an overview of the ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Alexander to introduce Ordinance 2018-35.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

3. Introduce Ordinance 2019-1, sales & use tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Heine to introduce Ordinance 2019-1.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

4. Introduce Ordinance 2019-2, insurance license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Heine to introduce Ordinance 2019-2.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

5. Introduce Ordinance 2019-3, occupational license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2019-3.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

6. Introduce Ordinance 2019-4, chain store license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Members Heine/Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2019-4.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

7. Introduce Ordinance 2019-5, alcoholic beverage tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Alexander to introduce Ordinance 2019-5.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

8. Introduce Ordinance 2019-6, property tax 6.22 mills (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Alexander to introduce Ordinance 2019-6.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

9. Celebration and ribbon cutting for Dr. M.L.K., Jr. Lane – Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. (Bryant)

The Mayor announced that the celebration and ribbon cutting for Dr. M.L.K., Jr. Lane will be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

10. Discuss group home on Texas Street (Heine)

This item was addressed following Resolutions and Proclamations.

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

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Rochelle Dunn initiated discussion regarding the RV dump site. Ms. Dunn was concerned about residents paying an additional fee related to the dump site.

Administrative Officer Julie McCulloch stated that people were using the site and leaving the cap off, raising concerns about safety. The Mayor said this is why he shut the site down.

Ike Davenport, 3341 Chamberlain, stated that the City of Baker is not being charged for the dump site because City-Parish doesn't know that the City of Baker has a RV dump site.

The Mayor stated that he, Ms. Dunn and Mr. Davenport are going to sit down and discuss the situation. He said he has not completed the research on this matter. He said he was most concerned about safety issues.

Residents of Feliciana Subdivision expressed their concerns regarding activity at Ruffins II located at 14522 Plank Road. They stated that it is a bar and they hear the loud music and profanity until all hours. Residents reported that they have contacted the police department repeatedly to no avail. The Mayor said that he has spoken to Chief Dunn and Ruffins II will be issued a citation. The Mayor stated that if it continues, the business will be shut down.

Discussion regarding the trash and people dumpster diving behind Plank Crossing Shopping Center was held.

The Feliciana Subdivision residents also reported a serious water leak on Felicity Drive.

Council Member Vincent thanked Director of Public Works Kelvin Ridgley for working with him, and he thanked the Mayor for all he does. Council Member Vincent announced that he will host a program on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Saturday, January 19, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Baker Branch Library.

Council Member Alexander announced that she, Council Member Jackson and Council Member Vincent will host a Community Meeting on Friday, January 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church on Groom Road. She said that representatives from PEC and the City of Baker Public Works Department will be at the meeting.

Council Member Jackson thanked the constituents of District 5 for taking the opportunity to express and share their concerns. She thanked the residents present at the meeting for expressing their concerns about their city, despite concerns about retaliation. Council Member Jackson said it is important for people to continue to stand for what is right and what they firmly believe in.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor reported that the audit report was good. He said the auditor will be at the council meeting on January 22, 2019 to provide an overview of the audit.

The Mayor explained Baker Blast. He said it is a public alert notification system. Baker Blast is a voluntary system whereby residents can receive informational texts from the City of Baker in emergency situations.

The Mayor explained his vision for, and what he hopes to accomplish with, a city newspaper – *Baker Forward*.

ADJOURN

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

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

**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 Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana held on January 8, 2019.

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
January 8, 2019**

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 January 8, 2019, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS

Doris Alexander
Pete Heine
Brenda G. Jackson
Dr. Charles Vincent
Darnell Waites

ABSENT

Glenda Bryant

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 December 18, 2018.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

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 Commissioners Heine/Jackson, seconded by Commissioners Vincent/Waites to adjourn.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

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 January 8, 2019.

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
January 8, 2019**

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 January 8, 2019, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

Doris Alexander
Pete Heine
Brenda G. Jackson
Dr. Charles Vincent
Darnell Waites

ABSENT

Glenda Bryant

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 December 18, 2018.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Vincent initiated discussion regarding placing Baker Blast sign up information in the utility bills.

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: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bryant

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 January 8, 2019.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council