

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
3325 GROOM ROAD  
BAKER, LA 70714  
January 22, 2019  
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on January 22, 2019, 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 Alexander.

**DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Members Alexander/Heine to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 8, 2019.

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 Members Heine/Vincent to move item “1. Overview of audit – Bruno & Tervalon, LLP (Mayor)” under New Business up on the agenda.

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 Alexander, seconded by Council Members Bryant/Jackson to add items “2. Bayou Ice, LLC (Mayor), 3. Bayou Ice, LLC (Mayor) and 4. Anointed Automotive (Mayor)” under Planning and Zoning Matters to the agenda.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

1. *Overview of audit – Bruno & Tervalon, LLP (Mayor)*

Mr. Joseph Akanji, Bruno & Tervalon, LLP, provided an overview of the audit.

**RECOGNITIONS**

**PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS**

1. WB Shedd & Co., LLC  
Location – 3312 Baker Boulevard, 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 WB Shedd & Co., LLC.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. *Bayou Ice, LLC*

*Location – 14616 Plank Road, Baker, LA (Mayor)*

No action was taken on this agenda item.

3. *Bayou Ice, LLC*

*Location – 150-A Main Street, Baker, LA (Mayor)*

No action was taken on this agenda item.

4. *Anointed Automotive*

*Location – 1814 Main Street, Baker, LA (Mayor)*

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Bryant to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for Anointed Automotive.

YEAS: Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: Alexander

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Representative from I Am Somebody, LLC stated that he was to be on tonight's agenda for approval of his business license. I Am Somebody, LLC appeared before the Planning & Zoning Commission on November 15, 2018. The Mayor advised him to go back to the Planning & Zoning Commission before returning to the City Council for final approval.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Jackson to add item "Ponderosa Garden, LLC" under Planning and Zoning Matters to the agenda.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Discussion regarding Mr. Meltus Dike's application for a business license for Ponderosa Garden, LLC was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander to give Mr. Dike his business license.

The motion failed due to lack of a second.

## RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring February 1, 2019 as National Wear Red Day in the City of Baker (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, 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 February 2019 as African American History 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 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 Vincent invited everyone to join him on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at the Baker Branch Library from 10:00 a.m. to Noon for a program he is co-sponsoring – Heroes of African American History Series. The program will focus on Marian Anderson – Trailblazer.

Council Member Heine complimented Council Member Bryant on the ribbon cutting ceremony for Dr. M.L.K., Jr. Lane held on Tuesday, January 15, 2019. He said it was one of the nicest ribbon cuttings that he has ever experienced.

#### **PUBLIC MEETING**

1. 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) (Introduced 1/8/2019)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Members Bryant/Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2018-35.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Ordinance 2019-1, sales & use tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/8/2019)  
Public meeting was held.

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

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Ordinance 2019-2, insurance license tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/8/2019)  
Public meeting was held.

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

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Ordinance 2019-3, occupational license tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/8/2019)  
Public meeting was held.

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

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

5. Ordinance 2019-4, chain store license tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/8/2019)  
Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to adopt Ordinance 2019-4.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

6. Ordinance 2019-5, alcoholic beverage tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/8/2019)  
Public meeting was held.

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

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

7. Ordinance 2019-6, property tax 6.22 mills (Mayor) (Introduced 1/8/2019)  
Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Members Bryant/Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2019-6.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

## **BIDS AND PROPOSALS**

## **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

## **CONDEMNATIONS**

1. 2098 Hovey (Mayor)

The Mayor stated that the condemnation process will proceed.

## **ANNEXATIONS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Overview of audit – Bruno & Tervalon, LLP (Mayor)

This item was addressed following the Disposition of the Minutes of Previous Meeting.

2. Annual District 3 Community Meeting/Neighborhood Watch - 6:00 p.m. at the Baker Branch Library on Monday, January 28, 2019 (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant announced that a District 3 Community Meeting/Neighborhood Watch will be held on Monday, January 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Baker Branch Library.

3. Discuss implementation of Ordinance 2017-16 (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson stated that the city's budgets have not been posted to the city's website as required by Ordinance 2017-16. Finance Director Mary Sue Stages said that condensed versions of the budgets have been placed on the website. Council Member Jackson stressed the importance of everyone following rules and procedures. She said she feels that she has been more than patient and lenient, but it is going on two years and the budgets have still not been posted correctly. Finance Director Mary Sue Stages asked Council Member Jackson for clarification on what exactly she wants posted to the website. Council Member Jackson recommended that she listen to the audio recording of the council meetings where the ordinance was introduced and adopted.

Discussion regarding following rules and procedures and professionalism followed.

**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**

Residents of Feliciana Subdivision expressed their concerns and frustration with the ongoing situation involving noise from Ruffins II. Mr. Ruffin was present. He apologized to the residents of Feliciana Subdivision and stated that he is taking corrective measures to rectify the situation.

Ikeal Davenport, 3341 Chamberlain, expressed his concerns regarding the city's RV dump site. Mr. Davenport is concerned about residents paying an additional fee related to the dump site and he feels it's a risk to the city to have the site open. He presented a report on the dangers of methane gas to the Mayor and Council. He asked that it go on the record that he brought the issue up with the Mayor and Council. Mr. Davenport said the site should be shut down. The Mayor stated the site has been shut down.

Discussion followed.

Angela Trahan, 1631 Landry, expressed her concerns regarding utility bills that continue to increase. She stated that her water meter has not read properly since 2015. She asked what the city plans to do to rectify the situation. The Mayor provided an overview of the situation with the collectors/meters and detailed the city's plan to address the situation, which includes replacing collectors/meters.

Dorian Williams, 606 Buras, stated that her meter has not read properly since 2015 and initiated discussion regarding quality control and the city's plan of action.

Discussion followed.

Resident asked when the road work on E. Myrtle will be completed.

Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor and City Attorney Fabre for all of their work on replacing the sign at the entrance of Feliciana Subdivision. He reported that the project is moving forward.

Council Member Bryant thanked everyone for their participation in the dedication

ceremony for Dr. M.L.K., Jr. Lane.

Council Member Alexander thanked those present who attended the community meeting on Friday at the First Baptist Church.

Council Member Jackson thanked City Attorney Fabre for his email sent on January 17, 2019 regarding the open meetings law. Council Member Jackson distributed copies of the response she received from Lauryn Sudduth, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, regarding her inquires into the open meetings law in relation to the community meeting held on Friday, January 18, 2019. Council Member Jackson read the response into the record –

Councilwoman Jackson,

Following our phone conversation earlier this morning, I have attached our office's Open Meeting Law guidance packet. Additionally, as we discussed, a meeting of a quorum of the council members meeting would be subject to the open meetings law just the same as a regular meeting. Therefore it would have to have an agenda/notice posted 24-hours prior to the meeting time as required under La. R.S. 42:19. From what you told me, that the notice for the meeting was posted at the building where the meeting was to take place and was advertised in the paper well before the meeting time, it seems as though the notice requirements of La. R.S. 42:19 were satisfied. The attached guidance packet will better explain the applicable laws and includes some Attorney General opinions for reference.

Council Member Jackson stated that she did not attend the community meeting held on Friday, as she nor her colleagues wanted to be in violation of the open meetings law. She said she was happy to report that they were not in violation.

Council Member Heine asked why he was not invited to participate in the community meeting.

Council Member Bryant stated, for the record, that she was not invited to the community meeting either.

Discussion regarding the community meeting held on Friday, January 18, 2019 was held.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

The Mayor said he was given a request from Council Member Alexander for all contracts from 2016-2018 and salary information for all city employees. He stated that all council members are being given copies of the requested information. The packets were distributed to the council members.

#### **ADJOURN**

The motion was made by Council Members Alexander/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.

**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 22, 2019.

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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  
January 22, 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 22, 2019, 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 Bryant to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 8, 2019.

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

Niketa King submitted a monthly sales report for December 2018.

The motion was made by Commissioner Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Bryant to accept the sales report submitted for December 2018.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

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 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 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 22, 2019.

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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  
January 22, 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 22, 2019, 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 January 8, 2019.

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**

Commissioner Vincent asked if the city will be replacing meters and collectors. Commissioner Waites stated that the city plans to replace both.

**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 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 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 22, 2019.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council