

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
3325 GROOM ROAD  
BAKER, LA 70714  
February 12, 2019  
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on February 12, 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 Vincent.  
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 Alexander to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 22, 2019.

Council Member Alexander seconded the motion with the exception that discussion of the packets containing City of Baker contracts the Mayor distributed at the last meeting be added to tonight's agenda under New Business.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander to add item "Discuss packets Mayor distributed at the last meeting (Alexander)" under New Business to the agenda.

Council Member Alexander also said the minutes of the last meeting state that Council Member Heine and Council Member Bryant were not notified of the community meeting. She asked that a correction be made to the minutes of the previous meeting. Council Member Alexander asked that the minutes reflect that Council Member Heine and Council Member Bryant were notified about the community meeting by correspondence.

Council Member Bryant and Council Member Heine vehemently maintained that they were not notified about the community meeting.

Discussion regarding whether notification of the community meeting was sent and/or received and the proposed amendment to the minutes was held.

Council Member Heine said that he did not receive any correspondence which specifically invited him to participate in the community meeting.

City Attorney Fabre read an excerpt from the minutes of the previous meeting regarding the notification issue.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander to let everyone know that an email was sent out to all council persons about participating in the meeting.

Council Member Bryant explained her understanding of the events that unfolded and reiterated that they did not receive an invitation to participate.

Council Member Alexander asked that the record reflect that an invitation was sent to everyone.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Jackson to have the record reflect that an invitation was sent out to everyone.

YEAS: Alexander, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: Bryant, Heine

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander to amend the agenda and add “Items that are in the minutes concerning the distribution of the packets that were given to the council at the last meeting.”

City Attorney Fabre asked for clarification of Council Member Alexander’s motion.

Council Member Alexander said she wanted to discuss the contracts in the packets the Mayor gave them at the last meeting.

Discussion regarding Council Member Alexander’s motion followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Jackson to add on to the agenda and discuss the contracts that were given to us at the last meeting that are reflected in the minutes.

YEAS: Alexander, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: Heine

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1, and 1 abstention.

Council Member Bryant stated the reason for her abstention.

Council Member Heine stated that the Mayor complied with the public records request. He asked what the problem was with the packets that the council received.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Heine that she be able 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 Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to add item “Ordinance 2019-9, to fund an expenditure of the general fund for us to attend one of our LMA conferences.”

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

## RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognize Mayor Darnell Waites for assisting with the replacement of the Feliciana Subdivision sign (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent recognized Mayor Darnell Waites for assisting with the replacement of the Feliciana Subdivision sign.

2. Recognize City Attorney Ken Fabre for assisting with the replacement of the Feliciana Subdivision sign (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent recognized City Attorney Ken Fabre for assisting with the replacement of the Feliciana Subdivision sign.

3. Recognize Director of Public Works Kelvin Ridgley for assisting with the replacement of the Feliciana Subdivision sign (Vincent)  
Council Member Vincent recognized Director of Public Works Kelvin Ridgley for assisting with the replacement of the Feliciana Subdivision sign.

**PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS**

**RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**BIDS AND PROPOSALS**

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**CONDEMNATIONS**

**ANNEXATIONS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Introduce Ordinance 2019-7, an ordinance to have the immovable Bakerfield property owned by the City of Baker declared surplus (Mayor)  
City Attorney Fabre provided an overview of the proposed ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2019-7.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2019-8, an ordinance to amend the capital budget and capital program of governmental funds for City of Baker, Louisiana for fiscal year 2018-2019 (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre provided an overview of the proposed ordinance. The ordinance would amend the budget allowing the Police Department to purchase new tasers.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Heine to introduce Ordinance 2019-8.

Police Chief Dunn and Captain Borneman explained the department's need for new tasers.

Council Member Alexander questioned why the funds for the tasers were not coming out of the Redflex budget.

Discussion followed.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: Alexander

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

Council Member Alexander explained her vote. She said the funds for the tasers should be taken from the Redflex budget.

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages explained that all of the Redflex revenue has been budgeted for the year and is being used by the Police Department.

Following the Finance Director's explanation, Council Member Alexander stated that she was changing her vote to Yea.

3. Appoint Ashley Batts - City of Baker Treasurer (Mayor)

The Mayor introduced Ms. Batts and asked that she tell everyone a little about herself.

Discussion regarding Ms. Batts's education, qualifications and prior work experience was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Heine to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Ashley Batts as City of Baker Treasurer.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

4. Discuss lease options for pump trucks and ladder trucks – Fire Department (Mayor)

Fire Chief Hunt gave a presentation on the Fire Department's need for new trucks and explained the proposed lease program.

The Mayor expounded on the Fire Department's need for new trucks and the proposed lease program.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine to proceed.

Discussion followed.

5. Approval for renewal of contract with City Auditor – Bruno & Tervalon for fiscal year 2018-2019 (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant appealed to her colleagues to renew the contract with Bruno & Tervalon.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Members Heine/Vincent to approve the renewal of contract with City Auditor – Bruno & Tervalon for fiscal year 2018-2019.

Council Member Alexander asked to see a copy of the contract they are being asked to approve for renewal. The Mayor said that when they get ready, he will bring it in.

Council Member Alexander stated she would like to table this item until council members have a chance to see the contract.

Discussion followed.

Vote was called for.

Council Member Jackson asked for clarification on what is being voted on.

The Mayor said giving approval to renew the contract and enter into negotiations.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

6. Discuss recruitment for VA assistance (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant initiated discussion regarding possible locations for, staffing of and services to be provided at, a VA center in the City of Baker.

7. District 3 Community Meeting/Neighborhood Watch - 6:00 p.m. at the Baker Branch Library on Monday, February 25, 2019 (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant announced that a District 3 Community Meeting/Neighborhood Watch will be held on Monday, February 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Baker Branch Library. She noted that the date has changed – the meeting will be held on February 18, 2019.

8. *Discuss the contracts that were given to us at the last meeting that are reflected in the minutes (Alexander)*

Council Member Alexander stated she received a letter from the Mayor's office saying the information she requested would be sent to her in approximately two weeks. She wanted to make clear that the information council members received at the last meeting would not supersede the original legal request she made.

The Mayor said that every contract included in the packets which were distributed was matched with projects done by the city since 2016.

Council Member Alexander said that the information was requested in 2016, and she is still expecting the information that she requested in the letter that was sent.

City Attorney Fabre asked Council Member Alexander if she was saying that her public records request was not satisfied. He stated for the record that both of the public records requests made by Council Member Alexander have been thoroughly and ahead of time fully satisfied.

Discussion followed.

9. *Introduce Ordinance 2019-9, an ordinance to amend the general fund operating expenditures of the city council division of the administrative fund for the City of Baker, Louisiana for fiscal year 2018-2019 (Mayor)*

Council Member Bryant provided an overview of the proposed ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Heine to introduce Ordinance 2019-9.

YEAS: Bryant, Heine, Vincent

NAYS: Alexander, Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

**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 – Will meet on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Lagniappe.

The Mayor announced that he is creating a Citizens Advisory Board to the Mayor. He has asked each council member to provide the name of a representative from their district to serve on this board.

**NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Angela Trahan, 1631 Landry, asked when the increases she's seeing on her utility bill were voted on. The Mayor stated that there have not been any increases. Faynetta Jackson, Utility Department, explained the \$4.75 monthly charge that residents are seeing on their utility bills is an adjustment. City Attorney Fabre stated for the record that there has been no rate increase.

Discussion followed.

Kenneth Wackett, 14305 Felicity, cited Ordinance 2004-44 regarding noise in the City of Baker. Mr. Wackett said that residents of Feliciana Subdivision continue to have problems with noise from Ruffins II.

Ikeal Davenport, 3341 Chamberlain, expressed his concerns regarding the city's RV dump site.

Council Member Vincent announced that on Saturday, February 16, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. the City of Baker will participate in Operation Fresh Start. This is a community clean-up initiative being sponsored by Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome.

Council Member Heine thanked the Mayor for having the street lights in the Leland area repaired.

Council Member Vincent distributed flyers detailing various free cancer screenings taking place in the Baton Rouge area. He announced that he will host a Black History program on Marian Anderson on Saturday, February 23, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Baker Branch Library.

Council Member Vincent said that he is disappointed with the overlay work done on Daveco. He asked if the contractor will be removing the asphalt that was left in the servitude along Morvant. Council Member Vincent also inquired about locking the gate on the fence near the bridge on Morvant. Director of Public Works Kelvin Ridgley said that these issues are being addressed.

In honor of Black History Month Council Member Bryant read a quote from Nelson Mandela – "The mark of great leaders is the ability to understand the context in which they are operating and act accordingly."

Council Member Alexander announced sponsorship opportunities for the upcoming Rotary Golf Tournament.

Council Member Jackson thanked the constituents of District 5 and Baker residents for informing her of any concerns they may have. She also thanked those in attendance for being at tonight's meeting and expressing their concerns. Council Member Jackson asked those present to let others know that everyone is always welcome when council members meet.

City Attorney Fabre clarified, for the record, that the Attorney General's office did not provide a legal opinion on the question of an open meetings law violation with regards to the community meeting held on January 18, 2019. He read portions of an email that he received from the Attorney General's office, and asked that the correspondence be placed into the record.

Council Member Jackson thanked City Attorney Fabre.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

The Mayor announced the Information Sharing Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to explain the billing process to customers and share helpful information concerning reading their utility bills.

The Mayor said they met with CRPC this week to discuss the proposed bike trails. He said that there will be an open house which will allow residents to have input in the process.

The Mayor said his office will be putting out a list of all the projects that have been completed in the last sixteen months.

The Mayor said if we want the city to be better, we have to invest in that.

**ADJOURN**

The motion was made by Council Members Bryant/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 February 12, 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  
February 12, 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 February 12, 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 Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 22, 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
2. Other Reports
3. Items Requiring Action

**ADJOURN**

There was no other business to come before the commission. The motion was made by Commissioners Alexander/Heine, seconded by Commissioner Bryant 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 February 12, 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  
February 12, 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 February 12, 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 Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 22, 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 stated that the yellow notice included in this month's utility bills was very helpful in explaining the increase that came from City Parish.

**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 Bryant, 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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on February 12, 2019.

---

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council