

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
3325 GROOM ROAD  
BAKER, LA 70714  
January 14, 2020  
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on January 14, 2020, 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 Mayor Waites.

**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 December 10, 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 Alexander/Vincent to add proclamation recognizing January 15<sup>th</sup> as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday 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**

**PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS**

1. Affordable Home Furnishings, LLC  
Location – 252 Main St, Baker, LA. 70714  
Zoned – C-2 (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Heine to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for Affordable Home Furnishings, LLC.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. 2019-40-----Re-Zoning Request

Audrey C. Vickers

Re-zone Lots 1 of Rodriguez Subdivision, Audrey C. Vickers, 5680 Groom Rd.

Currently zoned C-2 commercial requesting to be re-zone to R-1 residential

Located in Township 5 South, and Range 1 East. Greensburg Land District,

Baker, Louisiana (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Members Jackson/Vincent to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the rezoning request for Audrey C. Vickers – 5680 Groom Road.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

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

2. Introduce Ordinance 2020-1, sales & use tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member

Bryant to introduce Ordinance 2020-1.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Introduce Ordinance 2020-2, insurance license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Heine, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2020-2.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Introduce Ordinance 2020-3, occupational license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2020-3.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

5. Introduce Ordinance 2020-4, chain store license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to introduce Ordinance 2020-4.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

6. Introduce Ordinance 2020-5, alcoholic beverage tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Alexander to introduce Ordinance 2020-5.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

7. Discuss shade tree mechanics (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant initiated discussion regarding shade tree mechanics in the City of Baker. Council Member Bryant defined shade tree mechanic as a professional mechanic who repairs cars in his driveway or front yard. She is asking everyone to take into consideration that your property value and your neighbor's property value are affected by this activity. She is asking people to be more conscience and respectful of their neighborhoods.

Council Member Vincent stated one of the main goals of his Friendly Neighbor Keeper initiative is to promote respect for one's neighbors and neighborhood. He expressed his concerns regarding the amount of trash in the parking lots of area businesses. He feels we must do a better job of self-governing in order to keep our neighborhoods, our city, beautiful.

The Mayor stated a culture must be created which includes pride of ownership, where residents say – I love my city – I'm going to clean it up. He said the people who do business here and the people who live here all have to be on one accord.

8. Approve travel for Mayor and Council to LMA Mid-Winter Conference being held February 4-5, 2020 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana (Jackson)

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Members Alexander/Vincent to approve travel for the Mayor and Council to the LMA Mid-Winter Conference being held February 4-5, 2020 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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 January 2020 National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Bryant)

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, 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 Sunday, January 19, 2020 as Justice Sunday in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent said he hosted a program on Saturday, January 11, 2020 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Justice Sunday.

Council Member Vincent announced a program to discuss his first publication will be held Saturday, February 1, 2020 in honor of Black History Month.

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Members Bryant/Heine 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.

*Proclamation recognizing January 15<sup>th</sup> as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 's birthday (Bryant)*

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Members Alexander/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.

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

1. Adopt Ordinance 2019-23, an ordinance to amend, supplement and reenact Article III, Section 20-93 of the Baker Code or ordinances relative to nuisance and illegalities, and to provide for other related matters (Vincent) (Introduced 12/10/2019)

Public meeting was held.

Angela Trahan, 1631 Landry, said after reviewing and researching the proposed ordinance she feels it reaches a little too far and would be a burden to enforce/regulate. She feels the current ordinance is sufficient and the council should not adopt Ordinance 2019-23.

Council Member Vincent stated the purpose of the proposed ordinance is to provide specificity to the existing ordinance. He feels the changes are necessary. He said the ordinance is designed to be a preventative measure. Council Member Vincent said adopting this ordinance is a way of being proactive and helps to ensure the safety of citizens and children in our community.

Discussion followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Alexander to adopt Ordinance 2019-23.

YEAS: Alexander, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: Bryant

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

### **BIDS AND PROPOSALS**

### **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

### **CONDEMNATIONS**

1. 13950 Plank Road (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Alexander to demolish the building located at 13950 Plank Road.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Discussion regarding the time frame and cost for demolition of this property followed.

2. 4742 Groom Road (Mayor)

The Mayor stated the building at this address will be demolished.

3. 1950 Hovey (Mayor)

The Mayor stated the building at this address will be demolished.

4. 1556 Alabama (Mayor)
5. 1849 Alabama (Mayor)
6. 1832 Florida (Mayor)
7. 1850 Florida (Mayor)
8. 1920 Florida (Mayor)
9. 1928 Florida (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Alexander to put the remaining agenda items on the condemnation list.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

## **ANNEXATIONS**

### **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 in March.

### **NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Willie Williams asked the Mayor and City Council to look at the city's ordinances, as he feels that some may need to be updated.

Angela Trahan, 1631 Landry, expressed her concerns regarding the shooting of fireworks in the city and ATVs and dirt bikes being driven on the roads. She said enforcement of the city's ordinances is a must.

Ikeal Davenport, 3341 Chamberlain, asked to revisit concerns he expressed regarding a pay raise given to an employee, based on an increase in the employee's workload, that was included in a budget amendment passed in November. There was confusion over what was included in the budget amendment that was introduced on November 12, 2019 and adopted by the council on November 26, 2019. Mr. Davenport advised the Mayor and Council to listen to the minutes of the meeting held November 12, 2019 so the issue could be discussed.

Council Member Jackson stated she has listened to the minutes of the meeting held November 12, 2019. She stated for the record that when that item came before the council, she was not at the meeting, she was not able to vote on that particular item due to the fact that she was ill.

The Mayor assured Mr. Davenport that the recording of the meeting held November 12, 2019 would be reviewed.

Council Member Vincent announced the parish-wide clean-up effort – Operation Fresh Start is scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2020. Volunteers are asked to meet at the

gazebo in City Park at 7:30 a.m. He announced the Baker Branch Library will present a program about Harriet Tubman on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 in honor of Black History Month.

Council Member Bryant reminded everyone to recycle their Christmas trees. She said climate change is real and we must understand that it is not always about being able to prevent a flood, and that flood mitigation is an invaluable tool. Council Member Bryant emphasized the importance of the upcoming 2020 Census and urged all residents to participate.

Council Member Jackson announced a program regarding human trafficking will be held at the Baker Branch Library on Saturday, January 18, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

The Mayor asked council members to schedule a work session to discuss the bicycle and pedestrian master plan. He explained that the city will be required to adopt specific ordinances in order to successfully implement the proposed plan.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Vincent to schedule a work session to discuss the bicycle and pedestrian master plan on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Heine, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

**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.

**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 14, 2020.

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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 14, 2020**

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 14, 2020, 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 Alexander, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 10, 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 2019.

The motion was made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioners Heine/Vincent to accept the sales report submitted for December 2019.

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 Vincent, 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 January 14, 2020.

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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 14, 2020**

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 14, 2020, 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 Alexander, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 10, 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 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 January 14, 2020.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council