

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL**

Dial In: 774-220-4000

PIN: 22537

August 11, 2020

5:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on August 11, 2020, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

MAYOR

Darnell Waites

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Doris Alexander

Glenda Bryant

Rochelle Dunn

Brenda G. Jackson

Dr. Charles Vincent

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Waites presided.

The invocation was given by Council Member Bryant.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Dunn.

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 July 28, 2020.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. J and L Trailer Repair and Service, LLC

Location – 3401 Baker Boulevard, Baker, Louisiana (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Dunn to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for J and L Trailer Repair and Service, LLC.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Status of rotten tree on Alabama Street and Jefferson Street (Alexander)

Council Member Alexander asked for an update on the status of this situation. She said her concern is the tree is rotten and is leaning, something could happen, and the city could be liable.

Public Works Director Kelvin Ridgley said both DEMCO and Entergy have been contacted and a certified letter has been sent to the property owner. He stated the tree is on private property and is the owner's responsibility.

Council Member Alexander said if the city could do something to keep an individual from being hurt or anyone having an accident that would be ideal. She suggested the city remove the tree and bill the property owner. Council Member Alexander said in the past the city has removed things that are dangerous.

2. Continue discussion on housing in the City of Baker both sides of the coin landlords and tenants (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant encouraged landlords/property owners to include who will be responsible for property maintenance/upkeep in their lease/rental agreements. She said these are effective means of maintaining property value.

PUBLIC MEETING

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring the City of Baker a participant in the Community Development Block Grant Program (Bryant)

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant to accept the proclamation. She asked for an update on the current CDB grant.

Council Member Dunn asked what the funding is allocated for.

Kevin Gravois, PEC, provided an overview of the City of Baker's current CDB grant. He said the grant is for infrastructure and is in the amount of \$1,835,000.00 This grant will provide a new water well at Mississippi Street, a new chlorination system at Mississippi Street, a new chlorination system at Debra Drive, a new chlorination system at Lavey Lane and reconfigure piping on the elevated tanks located at Mississippi Street and Lavey Lane, as well as improve water quality and quantity in Baker proper.

Council Member Dunn asked to look at the information regarding this grant. The Mayor said the information will be forwarded and if she would like to have a meeting with Kevin Gravois for further explanation, that can be arranged as well.

Council Member Vincent seconded Council Member Bryant's motion to accept the proclamation.

Vote was called for.

Council Member Vincent, District 1, voted yes.

Council Member Dunn, District 2, said she is undecided at this particular time because she does not know exactly the details of what she is voting on.

City Attorney Fabre advised the Mayor, who advised Council Member Dunn, she will need to make a motion to abstain or she could vote no.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Alexander to allow Council Member Dunn to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The Mayor asked to continue the vote to accept the proclamation.

Council Member Bryant, District 3, voted yes.

Council Member Alexander, District 4, voted no.

Council Member Jackson, District 5, voted yes.

Summary of vote to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: Alexander

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Dunn

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

2. Proclamation declaring August 2020 Breastfeeding Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent said this proclamation is to remind parents that they should seriously consider breastfeeding if it can be safely done, as the health benefits for both mother and child are many.

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, Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Alexander stated she wants to change her vote on the Community Development Block Grant Program proclamation from no to yes.

City Attorney Fabre stated a motion and a second are needed to allow the record to reflect that Council Member Alexander is changing her vote from no to yes.

The motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Members Jackson/Vincent to change her vote on the proclamation regarding the Community Development Block Grant Program from no to yes.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Dunn, 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

1. Appoint Morris J. Anderson to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board (Jackson)
Council Member Jackson presented a brief profile of Mr. Morris J. Anderson.

Mr. Anderson said he appreciates Council Member Jackson and he intends to represent the City of Baker and its residents with quality, principle, and good standards.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent to appoint Morris J. Anderson to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Dunn

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

CONDEMNATIONS

1. 4742 Groom Road (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.
2. 1950 Hovey (Mayor)
3. 1556 Alabama (Mayor)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

4. 1849 Alabama (Mayor)

5. 1832 Florida (Mayor)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

6. 1920 Florida (Mayor)

7. 1928 Florida (Mayor)

8. 1025 Johnston (Mayor)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

The Mayor stated demolition will begin next week at 1849 Alabama and 1950 Hovey. He said the properties at 1920 Florida and 1928 Florida will be the next two demolished.

The Mayor asked that these four properties be removed from the agenda.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to remove these four addresses from the agenda.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Dunn

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

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

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Vincent welcomed Council Member Dunn to the City Council and said he looks forward to working with her. Council Member Vincent again expressed he and his wife's sympathy for the Dunn family's loss. He thanked the Mayor and Public Works Department for cutting the grass. He said he appreciates the city working with BREC and having the grass cut at Greenwood Park. Council Member Vincent told the Mayor and Public Works Director Kelvin Ridgely they are doing a really fine job.

Council Member Dunn thanked everyone for welcoming her to the City Council. She thanked Council Members Jackson and Vincent for their sympathy cards. Council Member Dunn thanked Public Works Director Kelvin Ridgely for having ditches cleaned in District 2 and the Mayor for his assistance with trash in that area. She said she is glad to be a part of the council.

Council Member Bryant offered her condolences to the Dunn family. She announced the Governor and the Corps of Engineers have agreed to dredge Mississippi River from the Gulf of Mexico to Baton Rouge. This will improve industry and job opportunities in the state. Deepening the river also lowers flood potential in areas that drain to the Mississippi River. Council Member Bryant said census workers will be going door to door this month. The last day to complete a form is September 30, 2020. She said District 3 is in the process of forming a Homeowners Association and anyone interested

in participating can contact her at (225) 773-7135. Council Member Bryant reminded anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 they can donate plasma or participate in scientific research to help others.

Council Member Alexander welcomed Council Member Dunn to the City Council and offered her condolences to her and her family on the death of her son-in-law.

Council Member Jackson provided an update for the residents of Chaleur subdivision. She said on July 30, 2020 Alti Source had the grass cut. A committee has been formed, and their role is to keep Alti Source updated on the property. A second work order has been issued to cut the grass in the rear yard at 212 Chaleur Drive. She said anyone wishing to speak to her regarding this matter can call (225) 773-7950.

Council Member Jackson extended a special thank you to Ms. Reese, Mrs. James, Public Works Director Kelvin Ridgley, and the Public Works Department for their quick response to the situation at 406 Charles Street. She also thanked Code Enforcement Officer David Georgetown for his prompt response regarding the maintenance of 913 Clermont Street. Council Member Jackson thanked Mr. Morris J. Anderson for his willingness to serve on the ABC Board. She welcomed Council Member Dunn and offered her condolences to the Dunn family for their loss.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor welcomed Council Member Dunn and offered his condolences to the family. The Mayor asked everyone to bow their heads and prayed for the Dunn family.

The Mayor announced free COVID-19 testing is being held on August 28, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at Miracle Place Church.

The Mayor reiterated the importance of masks and went over the mandates currently in effect.

The Mayor reported there are over 600 cases of COVID-19 in the City of Baker and surrounding areas. He urged everyone to continue protecting themselves and their families as we move forward.

The Mayor announced the City of Baker does not meet the criteria to operate as a Red Cross shelter during the pandemic. He said shelters are required to have separate screening areas, an isolation room, and a general population dormitory during the pandemic. The Mayor said they are reaching out to area hotels to try and contract with them through MOSEP and GOSEP in order to use them to accommodate Baker residents should evacuation become necessary.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant to adjourn.

Council Member Bryant welcomed Council Member Dunn.

Council Member Alexander announced the country has a female vice-presidential nominee.

Council Members Dunn/Vincent seconded the motion made by Council Member Bryant to adjourn.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Dunn, 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 August 11, 2020.

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
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL
Dial In: 774-220-4000
PIN: 22537
August 11, 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 August 11, 2020, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS

Doris Alexander
Glenda Bryant
Rochelle Dunn
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 July 28, 2020.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Dunn, 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 July 2020.

The motion was made by Commissioner Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Bryant to accept the sales report submitted for July 2020.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Dunn, 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 Waites to adjourn.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Dunn, 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 August 11, 2020.

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
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL
Dial In: 774-220-4000
PIN: 22537
August 11, 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 August 11, 2020, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

Doris Alexander
Glenda Bryant
Rochelle Dunn
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 July 28, 2020.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Dunn, 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 Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to adjourn.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Dunn, 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 August 11, 2020.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council