

**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 25, 2020

5:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on August 25, 2020, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

MAYOR

Darnell Waites

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Glenda Bryant

Rochelle Dunn

Brenda G. Jackson

Dr. Charles Vincent

ABSENT

Doris Alexander

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Waites presided.
The invocation was given by City Attorney Fabre.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Bryant.

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 August 11, 2020 with any necessary corrections.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Jackson asked that agenda item number three under New Business also include Vice-President, as the City Council has historically elected both a President and Vice-President.

Council Member Bryant stated the plan is to wait on the election of officers until newly elected Council Member Robert Young is sworn in.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2020-18, an ordinance to adopt the adjusted millage rate for tax year 2020 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2020-18.

City Attorney Fabre provided an overview of the proposed ordinance.

Kristyn Childers, Millage Management, LLC, provided a brief explanation of millage and the process that must be followed in order for the City of Baker to continue to levy its current millage rate.

Vote was called for.

Council Member Vincent, District 1, voted yes.

Council Member Dunn, District 2, abstained.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

Council Member Bryant, District 3, voted yes.

Council Member Alexander, District 4, was absent.

Council Member Jackson, District 5, voted yes.

The motion to introduce Ordinance 2020-18 passed with a vote of 3-0.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2020-19, an ordinance to set forth the adjusted millage rate and roll forward to a rate not exceeding the maximum authorized rate for tax year 2020 (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre provided an overview of the proposed ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2020-19.

Council Member Vincent stated this is not an increase in any taxes on any of our homeowners.

Council Member Bryant seconded the motion to introduce Ordinance 2020-19.

The Mayor asked Council Member Dunn if she planned to abstain or vote.

Council Member Dunn said she will abstain because she needs to get more details and more information, she would like to know exactly what she's voting on and she would like to look at it in detail.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

Vote was called for to introduce Ordinance 2020-19.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

ABSTAIN: Dunn

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

3. Election of new City Council President (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant asked to table the actual voting on this matter until newly elected Council Member Robert Young has been sworn in. Council Member Bryant said she would like to institute a new method of selecting the City Council President and Vice-President. She suggested a system based on leadership qualities such as: accountability, participation, continuing education, communication skills, an understanding of economic

development, professional representation, integrity, good character, morality, fairness, and a sense of unification. Council Member Bryant asked her colleagues to consider her suggestion and said she will accept the majority's decision on this matter.

Council Member Vincent proposed using the method based on votes received by each candidate, with the candidate having the highest percentage of votes being president the first year, the candidate having the second highest percentage being president the second year, and so on throughout the term. He said this way every council member but one has the opportunity to be President of the City Council and that individual has the opportunity to be Vice-President.

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

Council Member Bryant stated improvements in relationships between landlords and tenants are designed to improve and maintain property values. She said making it a joint effort between these two parties improves the entire community.

Council Member Vincent alluded to the city's experience with Dr. Pittman's properties several years ago, where a tremendous amount of effort was put forth by the city to work with the owner to rehabilitate those properties. He said this is an on-going concern for most cities and he applauds Council Member Bryant's efforts.

5. Discuss Azalea Gardens Mobile Home Park (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn initiated discussion regarding Azalea Gardens Mobile Home Park. She stated her wish is to see the park brought up to code. Council Member Dunn said one of her goals is to improve the community – to make Baker better. She said action is mandatory, talk is not enough. Council Member Dunn asked that everyone work together to do something better for the residents of Azalea Gardens. The Mayor said a meeting will be set up with the owners in order to discuss the situation.

Discussion regarding what can and cannot be done by the city with regards to current conditions at the mobile home park, the importance of the role code enforcement will play in this situation and who is ultimately responsible for the trailers in the park followed.

PUBLIC MEETING

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation recognizing Plank Road in Baker as an Opportunity Zone (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: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Proclamation declaring August 26, 2020 Women's Equality Day in the City of Baker (Jackson)

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

3. Proclamation declaring September 2020 National Sickle Cell Anemia 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 Dunn to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

4. Proclamation declaring September 2020 Ovarian Cancer 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 Bryant to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

5. Proclamation declaring September 2020 Prostate Cancer 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 Dunn to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Appoint Joyce Andrews to the City of Baker Alcohol Beverage Control Board (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to appoint Joyce Andrews to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Appoint Alteen Profit to the City of Baker Alcohol Beverage Control Board (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn presented a brief profile of Alteen Profit.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Bryant to appoint Alteen Profit to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

CONDEMNATIONS

1. 4742 Groom Road (Mayor)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

2. 1556 Alabama (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.
3. 1832 Florida (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.
4. 1025 Johnston (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.
5. 3215 Monroe (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.
6. 1317 Mississippi (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.
7. 1916 Florida (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.

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

Dr. Leroy Davis, 4312 Azie, said he received a letter from the assessor's office indicating his property assessment has gone up ten percent. He said he is unclear as to why the assessment would have increased, but he wanted the city to be aware of the change. Dr. Davis also stated he has not received his mail for two days and asked if the Baker Post Office is closed. He asked that the city work to resolve this issue. The Mayor said the post office was closed due to the impending storm. Dr. Vincent stated the post office is open and mail is being delivered.

Antonia Caine, 401 Parklan, said she received a similar letter from the assessor's office regarding her property assessment. Ms. Caine commended Council Member Bryant on her outstanding effort to improve the Baker leadership and encouraged her to keep going.

Meltus Dike, 3226 Truman, asked that the city clean the lake behind his property on Ray Weiland Drive. He said a good environment is important.

Council Member Vincent thanked Dr. Patt Roberson for the books she has donated for the Little Free Libraries, everyone who supported the effort to place the libraries throughout the city, and the stewards who help maintain the individual locations. He thanked the Mayor and Public Works Department for cutting the grass. Council Member Vincent said he appreciates the Mayor speaking with him and offering alternatives for residents who wish to avoid long lines while paying their utility bills. He expressed his appreciation for Utility Department employees as well. Council Member Vincent asked everyone to be safe. He said wear your mask, wash your hands, and continue to practice social distancing.

Council Member Dunn stated she met with residents of District 2 last weekend to discuss their goals for making the City of Baker better. Council Member Dunn thanked Public Works Director Kelvin Ridgely and the Mayor for their assistance with trash pick-up in that area. She said she has spoken with many residents who want to make Baker better,

who want to take an active role in bettering the community. Council Member Dunn said prayer does change things. She asked everyone to stay safe, to make sure they have all of the supplies they need and to have patience, with the city and one another, should we lose power or have water and drainage issues as a result of the hurricane. Council Member Dunn asked that everyone work together as one and continue to wear masks, wash hands and practice social distancing.

Council Member Bryant announced Ginger's Garden is closed for the fall season. She thanked everyone who worked to make the garden the tremendous success it was. Council Member Bryant announced the September 11th Commemoration Luncheon will be held this year. However, due to social distancing requirements the meal will be prepared and available for pick-up. She congratulated Council Member Vincent for being recognized by LMA for his years of service on the City Council. Council Member Bryant asked the Mayor if it would be possible to have future council meetings at 6:00 p.m. to facilitate public participation. Lastly, she referenced a letter she received with a seemingly phony return address and questioned the relevance of pulling skeletons from the closet. Council Member Bryant said things such as students having all they need to participate in virtual learning are the kind of issues that need to be addressed within the school system. She said that should be the number one priority when it comes to the Baker School System.

Council Member Jackson congratulated Baker native Jared White for being named drum major for the Human Jukebox at Southern University. She congratulated Council Member Vincent on receiving the Six Star Gold Service Award from LMA for his twenty-four years of service to the City of Baker. Council Member Jackson extended a special thank you to Utility Billing Director Keba Coleman for her assistance in resolving an urgent matter for a constituent of District 5, and said job well done.

Council Member Dunn congratulated newly elected Council Member Robert Young and welcomed him to the City Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor thanked Council Member Alexander for her years of service to the City of Baker.

The Mayor congratulated Council Member Vincent on his award.

The Mayor thanked Council Member Bryant for her work on the community garden.

The Mayor asked everyone to utilize the gov delivery service and subscribe to either text messages or emails in order to receive the most up to date information from the City of Baker. He asked council members to ask their constituents to text LABAKER UPDATES to 468311.

The Mayor went over the various options utility customers have to pay their utility bills.

The Mayor said he has received numerous complaints about speeding and has been asked about placing speed bumps in certain areas. He asked council members to provide a list of streets in their districts they feel need speed bumps.

The Mayor said the EOC is open and sandbags are available. He announced the City of Baker does not meet the criteria to operate as a Red Cross shelter during the pandemic. However, he said area hotels will be used to accommodate Baker residents should evacuation become necessary. The Mayor said we will prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

ADJOURN

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

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 August 25, 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 25, 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 25, 2020, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS

Glenda Bryant
Rochelle Dunn
Brenda G. Jackson
Dr. Charles Vincent
Darnell Waites

ABSENT

Doris Alexander

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 August 11, 2020.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Alexander
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 Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to adjourn.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Alexander
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 August 25, 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 25, 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 25, 2020, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

Glenda Bryant
Rochelle Dunn
Brenda G. Jackson
Dr. Charles Vincent
Darnell Waites

ABSENT

Doris Alexander

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 August 11, 2020.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

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 Commissioner Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to adjourn.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

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 August 25, 2020.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council