

**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

September 22, 2020

6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on September 22, 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

Robert Young

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Waites presided.

The invocation was given by Mayor Waites.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Young.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Members Vincent/Young to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 8, 2020.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognize Gabriel Camel – Sickle Cell Anemia Ambassador – and declare him an Honorary Council Member (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent recognized Gabriel Camel, Sickle Cell Anemia Ambassador, and declared him an Honorary Council Member.

Mr. Johnson, Sickle Cell Association of South Louisiana, announced Ryan's Run, a virtual celebration, is being held Saturday, September 26, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at BR Sickle on Facebook Live.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Elect President and Vice-President of the City Council (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant initiated discussion regarding the election of City Council President and Vice-President. There are two methods being considered. The first, proposed by Council Member Vincent, is based on the percentage of votes received by each council member and the second, proposed by Council Member Bryant, is based on leadership qualities.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent to accept Council Member Vincent's proposal regarding the council leadership positions.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Dunn to nominate Council Member Vincent President of the Baker City Council.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to nominate Council Member Brenda G. Jackson Vice-President of the Baker City Council.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

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

Council Member Bryant said this initiative is about affordable, quality housing. She announced rents are being deferred until the first of the year. She said this does not mean that tenants do not have to pay their rent; people are still responsible for their bills. Council Member Bryant stated the Fair Housing Act can help with our goal of having affordable, quality housing in the City of Baker. She said the Code Enforcement Officer has been working in neighborhoods throughout the city. Council Member Bryant reminded everyone – if you see something, say something. She said doing so ensures people stay safe and the community remains a place where people want to live.

3. Discuss home business licenses and home occupational permits (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant stated one of the ways small business owners can get assistance and participate in grant programs is if they have their business licenses. She asked that all business owners applying for licenses in the City of Baker contact the Baker Chamber of Commerce. Council Member Bryant said to strengthen home based businesses, to make them legal, to enable business owners to survive things such as a pandemic or disaster, she suggests getting all applicable licenses and permits.

4. Discuss completing proclamations 30 minutes prior to the start of council meetings (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn asked that proclamations be moved to 30 minutes prior to the start of council meetings, saying it would allow the council to discuss and focus on issues of the city. She said it would also allow the City of Baker to answer and find solutions to concerns of the citizens of Baker, as well as allow the council to solve more of the issues that are of concern to their constituents.

The Mayor stated proclamations are a part of the body of the agenda, and therefore should not be done 30 minutes prior to the start of council meetings. He suggested proclamations remain where they are on the agenda.

5. Discuss setting a date for a meeting with the manager and/or owner of Azalea Trailer Park regarding bringing the park up to code (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn said she requested a meeting with the manager and/or owner of Azalea Trailer Park. She stated the mayor arranged a meeting with the manager/owner of the property, which resulted in good discussion. The Mayor has agreed to have the city attorney meet with the park's representative in order to obtain more information about the situation. Council Member Dunn also said research will be done into any/all applicable codes so that the city can continue to move forward.

6. Discuss the feasibility of resuming council meetings at City Hall (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn asked about the feasibility of resuming council meetings at City Hall.

The Mayor said the city is still under the Declaration of Emergency for Health. He stated it is his responsibility to keep the city council and workforce healthy and safe. The Mayor said if the city were to follow the guidelines set forth by the state, it could not accommodate more than three or four people which isn't fair to others. He also said reopening City Hall creates liability. The Mayor stated he would reopen City Hall when he feels absolutely sure that he can keep people safe.

Council Member Dunn asked for clarification regarding the Baker City Council meeting scheduled for October 13, 2020.

The Mayor stated due to millage ordinances being on the agenda, the meeting on October 13, 2020 will be held at City Hall. He said the city has no choice in the matter, it was mandated that these ordinances be adopted at a live meeting.

Council Member Bryant announced that as of today COVID-19 deaths have reached 200,000 in the United States. She reminded everyone it is an infection that is spread by droplets and it is airborne. Council Member Bryant also said the arrival of flu season will make it difficult to know if a person is dealing with the flu or COVID-19.

7. Discuss the importance of Insurance Awareness Month (Jackson)
Council Member Jackson asked Chantelle Brady with Bankers Life Insurance Company to speak about the importance of Insurance Awareness Month, as we move through these uncertain times.

Chantelle Brady announced September is National Life Insurance Awareness Month. She said Life Insurance Awareness Month is intended to prompt Americans to access their life insurance needs. She stated October 15, 2020 to December 7, 2020 is open enrollment for all seniors on Medicare. Ms. Brady said during those three months Bankers Life will offer free advisory services for seniors regarding Medicare.

Council Member Young stated he would like to participate in this program.

Council Member Jackson thanked Ms. Brady for her presentation and urged anyone interested in participating this program to contact her if they have any questions or need further assistance.

PUBLIC MEETING

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution indicating the intention of the City of Baker, State of Louisiana, to approve the two (2) year appointment of Darnell Waites as a director to the board of the Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority (the "Authority") as provided by Chapter 10-D of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (Mayor)

The Mayor explained the proposed resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt the resolution.

City Attorney Fabre provided an overview of the resolution.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Proclamation declaring October 2020 Breast 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 Jackson to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The Mayor announced a Breast Cancer Awareness Walk is being held Saturday, October 17, 2020. Registration is from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The walk will begin at 9:00 a.m. at Baker Middle School and will end at New Covenant Christian Center.

Council Member Young said the bike club he organized rode in two events last year for Breast Cancer Awareness. He said the club intends to resume riding now that the state has entered Phase 3.

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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. 3215 Monroe (Mayor)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

5. 1916 Florida (Mayor)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

The Mayor said an individual contacted his office regarding the notice they received about demolition of the structure at 1849 Alabama Street. The individual asked to speak at the council meeting. However, they were not on the conference call. The Mayor stated no action will be taken at this address until he has spoken with the individual again.

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

Yolanda Ellis, 13802 Morvant, expressed her concerns with vehicles speeding and running stop signs in Harding Terrace subdivision. She said residents have contacted the

police department regarding this issue on multiple occasions. Mrs. Ellis asked for police presence in the neighborhood.

Discussion regarding the concerns expressed by Mrs. Ellis followed.

Council Member Vincent suggested the city consider placing the bike lane/share the road stencils on the ground throughout the community. He announced today was National Voter Registration Day. Council Member Vincent reminded everyone to get their flu shots. He told the Mayor he would like to speak with him about the tree at the corner of Jefferson and Alabama, as there are limbs that could possibly fall from the tree. Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor for keeping the ditches up, cutting the grass and arranging for an extra garbage truck to help with trash pick-up throughout the city.

Council Member Dunn asked the Mayor for more information on COVID-19 testing. She thanked Public Works Director Kelvin Ridgley for taking care of a drainage issue on Hovey and expressed her gratitude for the increased trash pick-up in the community.

The Mayor said he hopes to reschedule the COVID-19 testing for Friday, September 25, 2020. Once again, Community Health Services will conduct the tests.

Council Member Dunn asked about receiving updates on the school system in Baker. She stated a quality school system is an integral part of attracting people who are looking for homes.

The Mayor recommended Council Member Dunn reach out to fellow council members as a source of information.

Council Member Bryant reminded everyone that September 30, 2020 is the last day to participate in the census. She said October 5, 2020 is the last day to register to vote in person or by mail and October 13, 2020 is the last day to register to vote online. Council Member Bryant read a statement from Ruth Bader Ginsburg which said, "My mother told me to be a lady, and for her, that meant to be your own person. Be independent."

Council Member Jackson thanked Chantelle Brady for her time and increasing everyone's understanding of Insurance Awareness Month. She also thanked the constituents of District 5 for sharing their concerns and working with her. Council Member Jackson said Teamwork Makes the Dream Work.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor said the approaching storm is a rain maker. He said the city has done all it can to prepare. He is asking that everyone remain focused and to call 911 in case of emergency.

The Mayor reminded everyone that contacting their council member, the Mayor's office, or both, is the best way to deal with an issue or problem.

The Mayor stated council members do a good job, and he is proud to serve with them.

ADJOURN

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

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 September 22, 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
September 22, 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 September 22, 2020, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS

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

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 September 8, 2020.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

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 August 2020.

The motion was made by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Young to accept the sales report submitted for August 2020.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Dunn

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to allow Commissioner Dunn to abstain from voting on the monthly sales report for August 2020.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

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 Waites to adjourn.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

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 September 22, 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
September 22, 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 September 22, 2020, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

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

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 Commissioners Waites/Young to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 8, 2020.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

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 Commissioners Vincent/Young to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned.

**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 September 22, 2020.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council