

**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

October 27, 2020

6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on October 27, 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 City Attorney Fabre.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 13, 2020.

Council Member Vincent asked that the following be added to the minutes of the previous meeting – when his colleague, Council Member Young, thanked Senator Barrow for the funds the city is to receive, he added his thanks as well.

Council Member Vincent provided the correct spelling of Mickie Cammon’s last name. In the minutes of the previous meeting, Ms. Cammon’s last name was spelled Cannon. Ms. Cammon is a consultant with BGL Group, the team commissioned to assist in structuring the new Baker economic development district.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 13, 2020 with these changes.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Twahna Harris, The Butterfly Society, to discuss Painting the City Purple during Domestic Violence Awareness Month (Mayor)

The Mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled, as Ms. Harris was not present.

2. Discuss East Baton Rouge Parish Library installing a Story Walk in City Park (Mayor)

Pabby Arnold, Coordinator for Special Literacy Projects with the East Baton Rouge Parish Library, stated the objective of this national program is to bring literature into nature and encourage children to read. Ms. Arnold asked for the city's permission to go ahead with the project and for their assistance with installation of the stations in City Park.

Council Member Vincent asked that the library say they are partnering with Councilman Vincent's Little Free Library in the Park initiative. He said much work has gone into the initiative since being approved by the Baker City Council over a year ago. Council Member Vincent said he would be most pleased if this effort builds on what has already been started. He said he sees value in the project and reiterated the circumstances – that City Park has already been designated a Little Free Library park and this program is building on what has already been established. Council Member Vincent stated he would like to see the Little Free Library in the Park be part of the library's proposed initiative, as the Little Free Library in the Park has raised public awareness regarding reading materials being located in the park.

Council Member Dunn said she feels the Story Walk in City Park will be a great asset for the children of the City of Baker.

Council Member Bryant stated reading is a fundamental element of learning, and she is pleased to have this national organization available for us to utilize.

Council Member Young said he thinks it's a great idea. He asked how the material will be presented to the children and who will be responsible for upkeep of the stations.

Pabby Arnold, East Baton Rouge Parish Library, said the material is presented so that the children must read the story. She stated the library will be totally responsible for the upkeep of the stations once they are installed.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson to accept the walking path with the stipulation put forth by Council Member Vincent.

Council Member Jackson said she knows as an educator reading is fundamental, and knowledge is power. She said she is in favor of the project.

Council Member Vincent seconded the motion made by Council Member Jackson. He clarified the partnership is between the Little Free Library, which is also a national organization, and the East Baton Rouge Parish Library's Story Walk.

The 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.

3. Discuss the walking path at City Park (Mayor)

The Mayor said a suggestion box was placed in City Park after Council Member Young relayed citizen concerns regarding the walking path. He stated research has been done into the various materials available to resurface the walking path and the council will help decide which material to put on the path.

Council Member Dunn said she feels that the sponge pavement would be great. She suggested having the rocks scraped away to provide a clean slate for putting the sponge pavement down.

Council Member Young agreed with Council Member Dunn about having the rocks removed in order to have a clean slate for the sponge pavement. He also asked to be at the meeting between the city and the contractor who would provide the sponge pavement next week.

Council Member Bryant said she has noticed there are several uneven spots on the path.

The Mayor said they are aware of the uneven spots and the city does all it can to keep the path level. He said rain contributes to the unevenness.

Monique Butler stated the path has plenty of holes and she thinks it is very unsafe. She said the contractor should not have trouble, as there is not a lot of gravel to be removed from the path.

4. 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 quality and affordable housing for everyone in the City of Baker. She said often citizens who live in substandard housing are afraid to report problems to their landlords or the governmental agencies that could help them out of fear of being evicted. She said they need to come up with something that will allow residents to feel safe and to freely express the concerns they have regarding their homes.

Council Member Bryant spoke again about her constituents on Groom Road and McHugh Road that were affected by flood water, as happens every time there is a natural disaster. She referenced a multi-faceted project involving several agencies and local government that was used in New Roads, where resident's houses with a history of repetitive flooding were purchased, a subdivision was built, and these residents moved into new homes. She said this project was part of a watershed program. Council Member Bryant expressed her opinion, saying the City of Baker is perfectly suited to this type of project. She also stated she feels the city would benefit from the installation of water pumps which would help move water out of the city during floods. Council Member Bryant said the area left once residents have been relocated can be used as a watershed and converted back to wetlands.

PUBLIC MEETING

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring October 2020 Cybersecurity 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: 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 Health Literacy 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 Young 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.

3. Proclamation declaring October 27, 2020 "John Givens Day" in the City of Baker (Young)

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, Young

NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Givens' daughter said the family is both honored and humbled by the City of Baker honoring her father. She thanked everyone and said the family certainly appreciates what the city has done.

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Appoint Sam Boatner to the Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement (Young)
Council Member Young presented a brief profile of Sam Boatner.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to appoint Sam Boatner to the Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Appoint Lynette Mack to the Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement (Young)
Council Member Young asked that this agenda item be tabled.

Ruby Givens, John Givens' sister, thanked everyone for honoring and recognizing her brother. She extended a special thank you to Council Member Young for speaking at the funeral. Mrs. Givens said she appreciates everything so much.

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.

Final Notice

1. 1849 Alabama (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.
2. 1950 Hovey (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.
3. 1804 Florida (Mayor)
4. 1928 Florida (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.
5. 541 Ray Weiland (Mayor)

Dana Stevens, representative for 541 Ray Weiland, stated the owner of the property has had the house demolished, it has been torn down.

Jacqueline Minor, representative for 1804 Florida, stated the correct address of the property is 1832 Florida. Mrs. Minor said her son plans to remodel and move into the house. She said he recently began working at Exxon and got custody of his three children. Mrs. Minor asked that the City of Baker give the family time to repair the property.

The Mayor stated the house must be brought up to code.

Discussion regarding a reasonable time frame for completing the renovation of the property followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Jackson to invite Mrs. Minor's son to attend the next council meeting and have him state on the record what his plans are.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

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

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Derrick Smith, 701 Chemin, stated he would like to meet with the Mayor and Council Member Jackson regarding the ongoing flooding issue he is having at his home. Mr. Smith also expressed his concerns regarding parking on the street in the City of Baker.

Council Member Vincent stated he would research the City of Baker's Code of Ordinances for information about parking.

Council Member Jackson thanked Mr. Smith for expressing his concerns. She said the meeting he requested will be scheduled soon and they will address all of his concerns.

Dr. Patt Roberson, 2801 Allen Court, asked for Council Member Dunn's contact information. Council Member Dunn got Dr. Roberson's phone number and said she would call her after the meeting.

Council Member Vincent told Dr. Roberson that he thanked her for the numerous books she gifted to the Little Free Library at a previous meeting. He thanked her again for her generosity.

Marguerite Mack, 3747 Charry, asked about the servitude clean-up and debris removal in the canal behind Charry Drive. The Mayor stated the city is actively working to rectify the situation.

Council Member Young said he walked the canal behind Charry Drive and there was a lot of debris. He stated he notified Public Works of a baby mattress in the canal today. Council Member Young said he is trying to keep the canal as clean as possible, especially now that we are in the middle of hurricane season.

Council Member Vincent thanked the owners of various homes in District 1 for their efforts to renovate and improve the properties. He said he is still receiving complaints regarding speeding and he hopes the city is still looking into the possibility of speed bumps. Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor and his colleagues for all they do.

Council Member Dunn said she received a complaint about a hole on the Leland College property. She brought the issue to the council so the city would be aware of the situation. The Mayor said that is private property and only the owners, or those given permission by the owners, should be on the property. He said he will reach out to the owners of the property to notify them of the situation. Council Member Dunn thanked the city for cleaning the bridge at the Little League pond, she said it looks 100% better. Council Member Dunn encouraged everyone to vote on November 3rd and suggested people reach out and help elderly voters or those in line who may need assistance.

Council Member Bryant thanked the Fire and Police Departments for the work they did after a garbage truck took down a power line resulting in a small fire in District 3. She said their expedient action ensured the safety of the citizens.

Council Member Young said he has reached out to his colleagues and asked that they work with him to address issues in District 4. He said one person can not see everything, so if other council members see a problem in his district, please let him know. Council Member young said he welcomes their assistance. Council Member Young reported that the burnt house on Monroe has been demolished and the debris has been removed.

Council Member Jackson thanked the residents of District 5 for their continued support and understanding of the concept – Teamwork Makes the Dream Work.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor said there is a lot of debris on the ground. However, the city has activated its DRC. He reassured everyone that the debris will be picked up, it just takes time.

The Mayor stated they sent a letter to the State today asking for help with repetitive loss properties in the City of Baker.

The Mayor told council members Street Rehabilitation Project information is now available. Copies have been placed in their mailboxes at City Hall.

The Mayor said he has discussed the speeding issue and the placement of speed bumps with the Chief of Police.

The Mayor encouraged everyone to sign up for the City of Baker's information delivery system. He asked that council members help their constituents get signed up for the system, so that they receive information from the City of Baker.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson 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 October 27, 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
October 27, 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 October 27, 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 Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 13, 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 September 2020.

The motion was made by Commissioner Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Waites to accept the sales report submitted for September 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 Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Dunn 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 October 27, 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
October 27, 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 October 27, 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 Vincent seconded by Commissioner Waites to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 13, 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 Dunn, seconded by Commissioner Vincent 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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on October 27, 2020.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council