

**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

February 9, 2021

6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on February 9, 2021, 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 Council Member Vincent.

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, seconded by Council Member Young to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2021.

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. Karen Carter Peterson – candidate for United States Congress – District 2 (Mayor)
Karen Carter Peterson, candidate in the 2nd District United States Congressional race, introduced herself and presented her platform.

2. Discuss speed bumps (Mayor)

Purchasing Agent Ashely Batts stated she spoke with Kevin Gravois, with PEC, who cited results of studies regarding speed bump installation done in Zachary and Pointe Coupee Parish. According to the studies, installing and maintaining speed bumps is cost prohibitive and opens the City up to liability on several fronts. While the studies showed speeding was reduced, they also revealed speed bumps can slow emergency vehicle response time and divert traffic to other streets, often into residential areas. Alternative measures suggested by PEC included more signage, speed trailers and police enforcement. Council Member Dunn suggested researching speed humps, which are lower than traditional speed bumps, and the possibility of using those instead. Mrs. Batts said she would do further research on speed humps but feels liability would still be an issue.

3. Schedule a work session to discuss water project on west side of City (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to schedule a work session to discuss water project on west side of City on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Continue discussion on quality and fair housing in the City of Baker for all tenants, landlords and homeowners (Bryant)

Mission Statement

- A. To provide a healthy lifestyle through community gardens and exercise availability.
- B. To provide a safe environment through communication with each other & law enforcement.
- C. To provide all neighborhoods with a sense of pride & integrity.

Council Member Bryant read the mission statement and said its purpose is to provide guidelines and to help others understand what her objective is. She addressed tenants in the City, saying the Louisiana Housing Corporation is currently working on legislation that would protect your credit and seal your record should you be evicted. Council Member Bryant told landlords she is praying for them and their tenants because evictions are hard on everyone. She wanted homeowners in the City to know as a community leader, her goal is to assist you with maintaining quality neighborhoods. Council Member Bryant stated future plans include creating ordinances to facilitate doing so. She provided an update on the property at the corner of McHugh Road and Baker Boulevard, saying the certified letter went out today.

5. Reminder – Council Member Vincent’s Clean Up – Friendly Neighbor Keeper Day is the third Saturday of every month (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent reminded everyone that the third Saturday of each month is Clean-Up Friendly Neighbor Keeper Day in the City of Baker. He urged everyone to participate in this initiative in any way they so choose. Council Member Vincent said whether picking up trash along the road or working in your neighborhood or yard – every effort makes a difference. He plans to be out picking up litter at various locations in District 1 this Saturday in his ongoing effort to beautify the City.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. CWEF Grant Resolution 2020-2021 (Mayor)
City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. LGAP Grant Resolution 2020-2021 (Mayor)
City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

Council Member Bryant asked about the possibility of a ventilation system for the Council Chamber being included as part of this resolution. The Mayor stated upgrading the ventilation system would encompass the entire building, not just the Council Chamber, and is a project that is being researched.

Discussion followed.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Resolution to adopt Section 3 Plan (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

Council Member Bryant asked for a brief review.

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages provided an overview of the City's Section 3 Plan and the proposed resolution.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Proclamation acknowledging Kamala Devi Harris as the first female African American Vice-President (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.

PUBLIC MEETING

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. 1916 Florida (Mayor)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

5. 5803 Biscayne (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant stated the owner of this property has been given until June to complete renovation work at this address.

6. 5804 Biscayne (Bryant)

7. 5901 Biscayne (Bryant)

8. 6003 Biscayne (Bryant)

George Myer, 5260 Groom Road – Suite A, owner of 5804 Biscayne, 5901 Biscayne and 6003 Biscayne asked for an extension. He said he is in the process of selling the properties and will close within a month. Mr. Myer said work would begin at the properties thereafter.

Council Member Bryant stated she had pictures of these properties placed in her colleague's mailboxes at City Hall. She said the houses have been in this state for over four years and she has been told before they were to be sold and rehabbed. Council Member Bryant said she receives complaints from area residents on a regular basis regarding these properties.

Discussion followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to grant Mr. Myer a ninety-day extension, giving him until May 11, 2021 to bring the properties up to code.

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

Jacqueline Winding, 1804 Florida, a representative for 1832 Florida asked how the family could keep the property if the City demolishes the structure. City Attorney Fabre explained the family would be charged for the demolition work, but they would not lose the property.

Discussion followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to give Mrs. Winding until May 11, 2021 to complete the repairs and restoration work at 1832 Florida.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Vincent reminded everyone about a powerful PBS program being aired on February 16th and 17th – The Black Church. The program was produced by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. in commemoration of Black History Month. Council Member Vincent said he wanted to get with the Mayor and discuss filling in the many holes around the City. He stated he would like to work with the Mayor to have the holes repaired and the cones and yellow tape removed from City streets and neighborhoods.

Council Member Dunn asked everyone to be safe, wear their masks, practice social distancing and when the opportunity presents itself – get their vaccine.

Council Member Bryant said someone should look into grants to fund computers for use by Baker City Council members. She thanked Purchasing Agent Ashley Batts for her research and work on this issue. Council Member Bryant also suggested the City look into grants to assist in repairing and/or upgrading the walking path. She asked that the

Baker Economic Development District and Convention Center survey be sent to her, as she never received it. Council Member Vincent said he will see that the survey is forwarded to Council Member Bryant, all other colleagues, and constituents. Council Member Bryant said as we work towards getting students back in a building, she needs to see the Baker pride and Baker strength she's heard about. She said we need commitment from everyone for this to take place. Council Member Bryant closed with a quote from Amanda Gorman – "Quiet isn't always peace."

Council Member Jackson thanked LaTania Anderson for being at the council meeting and addressing concerns regarding the resolutions. Council Member Jackson extended her deepest condolences to Dianne Clay on the loss of her mother, Mrs. Clara Johnson. She addressed residents of District 5, reminding them to stay safe, be vigilant and – Teamwork Makes the Dream Work.

The Mayor stated Bianca Black lost her mother as well.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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 February 9, 2021.

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

February 9, 2021

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, sitting as the Board of Commissioners for Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, met in regular session on February 9, 2021, 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 Waites to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2021.

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 January 2021.

The motion was made by Commissioner Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Waites to accept the sales report submitted for January 2021.

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 Waites, seconded by Commissioner Jackson 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 February 9, 2021.

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
February 9, 2021**

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 February 9, 2021, 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.

Commissioner Bryant asked that the Board of Commissioners be given financial reports on the Baker Consolidated Utilities System. She asked that the reports be provided either monthly or every three months. Commissioner Waites stated this would not be a problem.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Waites seconded by Commissioner Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2021.

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 Waites, 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 February 9, 2021.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council