

**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

March 23, 2021

6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on March 23, 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 Bryant.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Vincent.

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 March 9, 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. BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson (Mayor)

BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson provided an update on BREC's ongoing and future projects in the Baker area.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2021-7, an ordinance authorizing the City of Baker, State of Louisiana to proceed with a not to exceed \$7,200,000 financing through the Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority; authorizing and ratifying the City of Baker, State of Louisiana's request of the Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority to issue its Revenue and Refunding Bonds; authorizing the borrowing by the City of Baker, State of Louisiana of the proceeds from the sale thereof; approving and ratifying within certain parameters the terms of the sale of the bonds; authorizing the form and execution of the Loan Agreement; authorizing the form of and execution of an agreement for the purchase of the bonds and ancillary financing documents; and otherwise providing with respect thereto (Mayor)

Carmen Lavergne, Butler Snow LLP, provided an overview of the proposed ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2021-7.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. 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. She stated they plan to use the same site for the community garden as last year. She asked the Mayor to have the trailer near the Fire Department moved, as they intend to expand the garden to include fruit and need the extra space. Council Member Bryant suggested landlords use this time to change their leases to include city ordinances. She said the inclusion of ordinances, such as the city's noise ordinance, would be helpful and useful to all parties involved. She thanked homeowners for taking responsibility for their property. She said they are doing a real good job making sure that empty properties do not become a nuisance in the neighborhoods.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution recognizing April 5-9, 2021 Community Development Week in the City of Baker (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. Proclamation declaring April 2021 Fair Housing Month in the City of Baker (Mayor)

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 April 2021 Minority Health 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, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Proclamation declaring April 2021 Sexual Assault 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.

PUBLIC MEETING

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

1. 4742 Groom Road (Mayor)

The Mayor stated the structure at this address has been demolished.

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. 3226 Polk (Mayor)

Brenda Charles stated 3226 Polk is heir property and she has only recently begun managing the property. She asked that the City Council give her six months to raise the funds needed to either demolish the property or make the necessary repairs.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Vincent to give Ms. Charles six months to address the issues at this address.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

6. 5803 Biscayne (Bryant)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

7. 5804 Biscayne (Bryant)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

8. 5901 Biscayne (Bryant)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

9. 6003 Biscayne (Bryant)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

Council Member Bryant stated the shed at 4563 Baker Boulevard needs to be removed. She feels the structure is a safety risk. The Mayor said he will have the inspector go out and assess the situation.

Council Member Young stated he was mistaken when he said the council gave Ms. Gaines, 1850 Florida, until March to complete the renovations on her property. Ms. Gaines was actually given until April to complete the work.

Ms. Gaines, 1850 Florida, stated work is set to begin this week. She said she will email the scope of work to Council Member Young tonight.

ANNEXATIONS

REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Planning and Zoning Commission
2. Annexation Review Committee
3. Economic Development Team
4. Heritage Museum/Related Committees – Working on new City of Baker history book. The new book will encompass 1976 to 2021.
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 thanked his colleagues and citizens of Baker for their hard work on Saturday. He reminded everyone the third Saturday of every month is Councilman Vincent's Friendly Neighbor Keeper Day and asked that they do their part to help keep the city clean. Council Member Vincent said he is working to have Baker become a member of Keep Louisiana Beautiful Incorporated. He says he plans to present a resolution at the next council meeting. He said they are getting ready for a citywide clean-up event, working to make Baker beautiful, and encouraged everyone to participate in these efforts.

Council Member Dunn thanked everyone for bearing with her, and said she hopes everyone has a prosperous week.

Council Member Bryant said again they intend to add fruit to the community garden this year and they need the trailer near the site removed in order to have room for expansion. She asked why debris was placed on the curb near the intersection of Baker Boulevard and McHugh Road and when will the debris be picked up. The Mayor stated law enforcement officers directed the owner to place the debris at the curb at the time of eviction. He said the debris will be removed this week.

In response to Council Member Bryant's request to have the trailer removed, the Mayor stated it would cost \$30,000.00 to \$35,000.00 to move the trailer and he has no plans to do so at this time. He suggested they work around the trailer when planting this year's garden.

Council Member Bryant asked if someone had offered to buy the trailer located near the Fire Department and if so, why it wasn't sold. She also explained why that site was chosen for the community garden.

Council Member Bryant stated she feels the debris at the corner of Baker Boulevard and McHugh Road is a safety hazard, as people are digging through the debris. She asked if the city could be held liable if someone were to get hurt while doing so.

The Mayor reiterated he will try to move the trailer. However, he will not pay \$35,000.00 to do so. He said if anyone had offered to buy the trailer, he would have sold it. He said he will do all he can to make room so the garden can be expanded.

The Mayor stated they were instructed to place the debris on the curb by law enforcement officers. He said the city is working to get the debris out of the way.

Discussion regarding debris removal, the number and type of Republic Services trucks that run in the City of Baker, their schedules and the type of debris each one removes was held.

Council Member Bryant stated as a society we have become more sports oriented in our educational system. She asked that everyone be mindful that there are countless academic careers to pursue. She said there are a lot of talented, gifted students in the City of Baker.

Council Member Bryant closed with Matthew 7:1-3, "Judge not that he be judged, for with what judgement he judges he shall be judged. With what measure he met, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdeth thou the mote that is in thine brother's eye but consider not the beam that is in thine own eye."

Council Member Jackson extended a special thank you to BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson for his very informative update. She thanked the residents of District 5 for staying diligent, being proactive and reporting suspicious activity. Council Member Jackson suggested to Council Member Vincent that the Baker Economic Development District look at the City of Baker's Strategic Plan, which was adopted in 2018, and the market feasibility study that was done at that time to help determine what residents would like to see in the City of Baker.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor announced drive-thru COVID-19 vaccinations will be given at Lane Regional Medical Center on March 25-26, 2021 and March 30-31, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Pfizer vaccine will be administered. Online registration is required.

The Mayor asked that everyone continue to pray for Ms. Richardson's family, as she passed away recently.

Council Member Vincent said Southern is hosting a vaccination event at the F.G. Clark Activity Center as well.

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 March 23, 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
March 23, 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 March 23, 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 Waites, seconded by Commissioners Jackson/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 9, 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 Jackson, 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 for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on March 23, 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
March 23, 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 March 23, 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.

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 March 9, 2021.

Commissioner Bryant asked about the written report she requested in February. Commissioner Waites stated the report will be sent out tonight.

Vote was called for.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Commissioner Jackson stated for the record that she did receive an email pertaining to utility reports.

Commissioner Bryant asked that correspondence be sent out in a timely manner.

Commissioner Young announced Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman Willie Williams lost his brother. Services will be held Friday in St. Francisville.

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 Commissioners Jackson/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 March 23, 2021.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council