

**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

April 27, 2021

6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on April 27, 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 Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 13, 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. Introduce Ordinance 2021-8, an ordinance to amend and reenact BCO 14-1001 sale or possession of a controlled substance (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre provided an overview of the ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2021-8.

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 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 began by asking the Mayor when the trailer near the Fire Department was going to be removed, as it is in violation of City ordinances. The Mayor said that issue would be discussed under the next agenda item. Council Member Bryant announced LaTonya Rounds, a holistic exercise instructor, is having a ribbon cutting Thursday at 11:00. She is encouraging residents to participate in an exercise program, as this promotes healthy living. Council Member Bryant said District 3 has block captains and a president of the Neighborhood Watch program, both of which facilitate communication with the Police Department. She encouraged citizens to be proactive – if they see something, say or do something. Council Member Bryant acknowledged fear of retaliation and said residents can call Neighborhood Watch president Larry Barton or her, and they will do the best they can to relay the information to the authorities in a manner which will not affect the caller personally.

3. Discuss community garden (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant said she is ready, that she is passionate about the community garden. However, they are getting a late start on planting this year. She again asked when the trailer near the Fire Department is going to be removed. The Mayor stated he has made arrangements for the trailer to be moved. He detailed the City's plan for involvement with the community garden this year, which includes buying plants, seeds, supplies, and tools. Council Member Bryant said Southern University has volunteered to work on the garden and they will be responsible for upkeep of the garden this year. As always, community volunteers are welcome to participate. Council Member Bryant stated any council member interested in having a garden site in their district should contact her in order to begin that process.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation honoring Jean Byers (Mayor)

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.

2. Proclamation declaring May 2021 Mental 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.

3. Proclamation declaring May 2021 National High Blood Pressure Education 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, 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. 1556 Alabama (Mayor)
2. 1832 Florida (Mayor)
3. 1916 Florida (Mayor)
4. 3226 Polk (Mayor)
5. 5803 Biscayne (Bryant)
6. 5804 Biscayne (Bryant)
7. 5901 Biscayne (Bryant)
8. 6003 Biscayne (Bryant)

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

Michael Willis, 1002 Shilo, stated he would like to see the City provide CPR classes to residents. Mr. Willis said he is working with the Mayor and Council Member Jackson and research is being done into ways to provide this much needed service to the community. Council Member Bryant suggested contacting the Fire Department for assistance with this endeavor.

Council Member Vincent stated they are moving forward on the Keep Baker Beautiful effort. As part of the initiative, they hope to add additional days where residents are encouraged to pick-up trash in and around their neighborhood. He reminded everyone the third Saturday of every month is Councilman Vincent's Friendly Neighbor Keeper Day and an opportunity to clean-up the community. He asked that the Mayor not forget to cut the grass on the servitude on Thomas Road.

Council Member Dunn stated she spoke with BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson about naming the park on Chamberlain Street after Ambassador Thomas. However, parks cannot be named after someone who is still alive. She asked that the City consider naming either a day or a road after Ambassador Thomas. Council Member Dunn said she would like to discuss bringing Azalea Trailer Park up to code at the next council meeting. She reminded everyone of the importance of wearing masks, washing hands and practicing social distancing, and asked that everyone continue to be mindful and stay safe.

Council Member Bryant reminded everyone that pizza boxes are not recyclable. She announced that any Generation Z job seeker should download the new app – Tallo. Council Member Bryant announced the Housing Authority has cribs available. This is in response to the rise in infant deaths. An application must be completed to obtain a crib.

She stated the Comite Diversion Canal is slated to be complete by 2022. Council Member Bryant closed with a quote from Booker T. Washington – “Character, not circumstance, makes the man.”

Council Member Young said work at 1850 Florida is moving along, and the owner maintains regular contact with him and the City of Baker Inspection Department. He stated they plan to meet with property owners in Heritage Court again regarding cleaning up the neighborhood.

Council Member Jackson announced that FEMA may be able to help with funeral costs for those who paid funeral expenses after losing someone to COVID-19. Go to www.FEMA.gov or call 1-844-684-6333 to get started. She extended a special thank you to the City’s Building & Grounds crew for their landscaping work at City Hall. She said they did an outstanding job. She wished all mothers a Happy Mother’s Day.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor asked everyone to support the City and voice their opposition to Senator Bodie White’s proposed legislation that would create separate recreation districts. He said the creation of separate districts would be extremely detrimental to recreation in 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 April 27, 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
April 27, 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 April 27, 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 Commissioner Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 13, 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 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 April 27, 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
April 27, 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 April 27, 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 Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 13, 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 Dunn, 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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on April 27, 2021.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council