

**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

May 25, 2021

6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on May 25, 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 City Attorney Fabre.

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 May 11, 2021.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

The Mayor asked that item number four under New Business be tabled until the next meeting.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Update 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 section A. of the mission statement and announced there is still emergency rental assistance available for those who need it through www.ebemergencysolutions.com. She then read section B. of the mission statement and said the Council had a work session regarding ATV's and the City's noise ordinance. She stated the City currently has a very strong noise ordinance and some of the things to consider with ATV's is licensing and kids not being monitored. She reminded everyone – if you see something, say something. She said it is imperative that everyone be held accountable for wrong behavior. Council Member Bryant read section C. of the mission statement. She said everyone seems to have slowed down with the grass cutting and it seems people are not maintaining their lawns as they once were. She cited a property on

Yvonne where the grass is roughly four feet high at this point, adding she has reported the situation to the Code Enforcement Officer. Council Member Bryant stated the City cannot pick and choose who gets notices, they must be sent to everyone who is in violation of City ordinances. She reiterated her opinion that the City's policy must be fair and equitable treatment for everyone.

2. Update on community garden (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant stated the grass at the community garden site has still not been cut. She said the grass must be cut in order to proceed with preparing the site and planting the garden. She asked that the grass be cut.

The Mayor stated the grass will be cut.

3. Fire Chief Hunt to provide an update on the proposed fire station and discuss fire ratings in the City of Baker (Jackson)

Fire Chief Hunt gave a brief presentation on the proposed fire station to be located on the west side of the city which he stated will be completed in phases. He asked the Mayor and Council to refer to the rendering included in the information packet provided by the Fire Department. He also initiated discussion regarding the City of Baker's community rating and provided a detailed explanation of the requirements and process used to determine said rating. Chief Hunt stated improving the City's water system has a direct correlation to improving the City of Baker's community rating. He stated addressing the water pressure issue, an increase in manpower and funding are the most important factors affecting the City of Baker's Fire Department rating in the future. Chief Hunt said he is willing to meet with the Mayor and City Council members to go over the information contained in the packets he provided. He said he is always available to answer their questions and provide clarity, as the rating process can be complicated.

Discussion followed.

4. Public information and opening of public comment period for the City of Baker Auditorium/Multiuse Community Room: announcement of application submission to the Louisiana Division of Administration – Office of Community Development for funding to replace HVAC system using federal funds if awarded (Mayor)

The Mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled until the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution to participate in the LaMATS administered cooperative purchasing joint commission (LACPC) and to appoint representative (Mayor)

Paul Holmes, LaMATS Purchasing Consultant, provided an overview of the LACPC and gave examples of how the City of Baker might avail itself of the benefits of membership.

Discussion regarding Mr. Holmes's presentation followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Vincent to table the voting on this resolution.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Proclamation – Hurricane Season 2021 (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.

3. Proclamation declaring June 2021 Alzheimer's & Brain 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.

Council Member Vincent stated the importance of using various sections of the brain as a means to stave off the disease. He recommended learning to play music, learning a new language or working crossword puzzles. He said Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area is located on North Boulevard downtown and is an invaluable resource for families and individuals dealing with this cruel disease.

4. Proclamation declaring June 2021 Cataract 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 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

1. Adopt Ordinance 2021-8, an ordinance to amend and reenact BCO 14-1001 sale or possession of a controlled substance (Mayor) (Introduced 4/27/2021)

City Attorney Fabre explained the Police Department's request to have the word "sale" removed from the title of the ordinance.

Public meeting was held.

Council Member Bryant asked for the reason for removing the word "sale" from the title of the ordinance.

The City Attorney stated the title is being changed because the sale of prohibited substances is a felony, and the Baker City Court does not have jurisdiction to prosecute felonies. He explained our Police Department can make arrests for any crime. However, felony cases are sent downtown for prosecution. He explained that removing the word "sale" from the title would help avoid confusion when police officers are making arrests.

Council Member Jackson stated, for clarification purposes, the language in the body of the ordinance is fine, it is only the title being changed.

City Attorney Fabre confirmed her statement. He said the body of the ordinance will remain the same. Only the title is being changed.

Council Member Jackson stated it is her opinion that the ordinance is fine as it is, and the word "sale" should remain.

Council Member Bryant asked who requested the change be made.

City Attorney Fabre stated he would not get into specific names and suggested contacting the Police Chief for that information.

Council Member Dunn asked the City Attorney for further clarification.

City Attorney Fabre explained arrest and processing procedures for individuals arrested in the City of Baker and ultimately sent downtown. He said the presence of the word “sale” in our ordinance has the potential to confuse the issue and those involved.

Council Member Young said he believes in being a team player and if it will help them enforce the law, it should be taken out.

Council Member Vincent asked, for clarification purposes, if making the requested change would aid them in doing their job. City Attorney Fabre said yes.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

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)

Council Member Bryant reported 5804 Biscayne, 5901 Biscayne and 6003 Biscayne have been purchased and work has begun at all three properties. She asked that these addresses be removed from the condemnation list.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to remove 5804 Biscayne, 5901 Biscayne and 6003 Biscayne from the condemnation list.

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 – Will be held Friday, August 27, 2021 at 6:30 a.m.
 - c. Strategic Planning Committee
 - d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mary Gaines, 1850 Florida, stated the house is going to be demolished, as it is beyond repair. Ms. Gaines said she plans to fence the lot once the demolition is complete and she has arranged for lawn maintenance.

Lynette Mack, 3747 Charry, asked about the status of requests to clean the servitude behind her house. The Mayor said they are waiting on bid submissions for the proposed work. These submissions must be received in order to proceed with the project.

Council Member Vincent reiterated the importance of keeping ditches clean with hurricane season approaching. He asked that the Mayor remember the ditches on Thomas Road during clean-up efforts. Council Member Vincent said residents at the corner of Amerest and Morvant are going to need assistance with tree removal, as a large tree was blown down during the last storm landing on the property owner's fence and in the servitude.

Council Member Dunn thanked the Building and Grounds and Public Works Departments for their work at the Little League Pond. She asked that everyone be patient and understand the weather's impact on the Public Works Department's ability to clean ditches and prepare for hurricane season. She also asked that people clean any ditches they may have on their property. Council Member Dunn reminded everyone COVID-19 is still out there and suggested those who feel it necessary continue to wear their masks, wash their hands, and practice social distancing. She said she hopes the Council is able to return to the Council Chambers at the end of the summer. Council Member Dunn thanked the Mayor and Council members for all they have done to help her and all of their support.

Council Member Bryant reported there is a beaver's dam on the right-hand side of the bridge on Bentley Drive that is adversely affecting water flow in the area. She also reported a pipe and large branch in the ditch on Wimbish and asked for assistance with these matters. Council Member Bryant reminded everyone Bill 205, which proposes to create separate recreation districts in Central and Zachary, will be brought up again on Thursday. She said everyone should lend their support, express their opinion, and encourage lawmakers to vote "No" on this matter. Council Member Bryant asked about the food truck on Highway 19.

The Mayor stated the owner of the truck is leasing the property and it is a legitimate and licensed business.

Council Member Bryant questioned the issuance of a license for a food truck when the City of Baker's ordinances prohibit them. She also asked when the site would be cleaned up, saying it does not look appealing. Council Member Bryant said in all of her extensive travels, she has never seen a food truck on a major thoroughfare passing through a city.

Council Member Jackson stated she has had people express concerns to her regarding the food truck. She has been asked if she, as a council member, approved the business and how they got a business license. Council Member Jackson stated she did not approve the business and questioned why the owner had not gone before Planning and Zoning or the Council.

The Mayor stated he issued her a temporary license.

Council Member Jackson said she appreciates the Mayor's comments, but she is concerned about the rules and procedures, and it is the Council that has final approval for businesses. She said she is only conveying the concerns of the citizens. She reiterated that a business needs to follow the protocol that the City has established. Council

Member Jackson said this does not appear to be in the best interest of the City. She said citizens are frustrated and she understands their concerns. Council Member Jackson said it should not have gone that way. She stated for the record – Councilwoman Brenda G. Jackson, District 5, did not approve this business endeavor whatsoever. She wants the citizens to know she had nothing to do with it.

Council Member Bryant stated her objective for speaking on the matter was to ensure the Council will not bear the responsibility for allowing food trucks on that property. She said two other food trucks that were parked in the City were asked to leave, as the City ordinance says food trucks are not allowed.

Council Member Jackson announced the Baker Fire Department is having its annual fund drive. You can bring or mail your donations to Baker Volunteer Fire Department Fund Drive, c/o Hancock Whitney Bank at 3033 Ray Weiland Drive, Baker, Louisiana 70714. Donations can also be mailed to Baker Volunteer Fire Department at P.O. Box 690, Baker, Louisiana 70704. Please make checks payable to Baker Volunteer Fire Department Fund Drive.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor announced the City will be implementing a broadband initiative.

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 May 25, 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
May 25, 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 May 25, 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 Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 11, 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 April 2021.

The motion was made by Commissioner Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Waites to accept the sales report submitted for April 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 Dunn, seconded by Commissioners Jackson/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 May 25, 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
May 25, 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 May 25, 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 May 11, 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

The motion was made by Commissioner Dunn, seconded by Commissioner Jackson to accept the Utility Fund report.

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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on May 25, 2021.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council