

**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

June 8, 2021

6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on June 8, 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 25, 2021.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to add “Resolution to participate in the LaMATS administered cooperative purchasing joint commission (LACPC) and to appoint representative” under Resolutions and Proclamations to the agenda.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to add “Proclamation declaring June 2021 Juneteenth Month in the City of Baker” under Resolutions and Proclamations to the agenda.

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

1. Accept 2021-2022 Capital Outlay Budget (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and accept the 2021-2022 Capital Outlay Budget.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Approve Business License Request – 2021-1
Shugga’s Kloset
Location – 1006 Main Street, Baker, Louisiana
Zoned – C-2 (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for Shugga’s Kloset.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 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)

Daryl Blacher, Strategic Community Solutions of Louisiana, explained one of the requirements for this grant is that the City notify the public of its intent to submit the grant for federal funds. She said a link for comments has been posted on the City of Baker’s website. Ms. Blacher also stated information regarding the grant and the public comment period is being sent out via the City’s email system.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2021-9, an ordinance to adopt the operating budget of General Fund Revenues and Expenditures City of Baker, Louisiana fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to introduce Ordinance 2021-9.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Introduce Ordinance 2021-10, an ordinance to adopt the operating budget of Special Revenue Funds Revenues and Expenditures City of Baker, Louisiana fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2021-10.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Introduce Ordinance 2021-11, an ordinance to adopt the Capital Budget and Capital Program of Governmental Funds City of Baker, Louisiana fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Jackson to introduce Ordinance 2021-11.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

5. Introduce Ordinance 2021-12, an ordinance to adopt the budget of Utility Fund Revenues, Expenditures and Capital Improvements City of Baker, Louisiana fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2021-12.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

6. Introduce Ordinance 2021-13, an ordinance to adopt the budget of Cemetery Fund Revenues, Expenditures and Capital Improvements City of Baker, Louisiana fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Members Dunn/Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2021-13.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

7. Introduce Ordinance 2021-14, an ordinance to adopt the budget of Sewer Revenue Fund Revenues, Expenditures and Capital Improvements City of Baker, Louisiana fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to introduce Ordinance 2021-14.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

8. 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 said LaTonya Rounds holds a Zumba class on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. at Greenwood Park. She then read section B. of the mission statement and said City leaders and employees should be role models for others in the community. Council Member Bryant read section C. of the mission statement and asked the Utility Department to add a note to next month's utility bills reminding residents that impeding drainage is a violation of the City of Baker's Code of Ordinances. This will help protect the City from flooding as we enter hurricane season and the rainy season.

9. Update on community garden (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant said the inclement weather has prohibited work at the community garden. She said the site will need to be tilled and fertilized to prepare for planting. Council Member Bryant asked anyone interested in volunteering at the garden to contact her at (225) 773-7135.

10. Schedule work session to discuss food trucks in the City of Baker and how to effectively communicate with colleagues (Dunn)
Discussion regarding scheduling the work session was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Jackson to add discuss community rating to the work session on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to schedule a work session to discuss food trucks in the City of Baker, how to effectively communicate with colleagues and discuss community rating for Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Young did not vote, as he was momentarily disconnected from the call.

11. Discuss the tree situation at 3340 Grant Street (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn said the tree in the canal/servitude at 3340 Grant Street is a hazard and poses a serious safety risk. She said the residents at this address are senior citizens who are in desperate need of assistance. Council Member Dunn asked what grants are available to fund this type of project, not just at this address but all over the City of Baker. She said she is asking for assistance; she is asking that the City's grant experts research and find available funds that can be used to assist Baker residents. Council Member Dunn also asked if there are any local charitable or service organizations willing to provide either monetary assistance or volunteers to remove the threat. She stated if we work together, there has to be a way to help those in our community who are in need. She said ABC Tree Service came out and is preparing a bid for the work and she has also spoken with the Pilot Club. Council Member Dunn stated she knows this address is not in her district, that it is Council Member Young's district, but she has become involved and plans to work with him to resolve the issue.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution to adopt a Complete Streets Policy in the City of Baker (Mayor)
Rebecca Bond provided an overview of the resolution.

City Attorney Fabre read the 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.

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

Cliff Palmer, LaMATS Executive Director, provided an overview of the LACPC and gave examples of how the City of Baker might avail itself of the benefits of membership.

The Mayor stated the City of Baker's representative will be Purchasing Agent Ashley Batts.

Council Member Jackson thanked Mr. Palmer for answering and addressing all her concerns regarding the program on June 4, 2021.

City Attorney Fabre read portions of the resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson 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. *Proclamation declaring June 2021 Juneteenth Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)*
Council Member Vincent gave a presentation on the history of Juneteenth.

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)

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

Vanessa Turner, 4504 Chapeau, asked why she received a traffic violation notice in the mail when the device on Morvant Road was supposed to be in a testing phase. Ms. Turner also cited the lack of signage in the area advising motorists of the camera's presence.

The Mayor asked Ms. Turner to contact him regarding the situation.

Council Member Vincent commended the Mayor and City employees for cutting the grass and ditches. He stated it is important to talk to new and existing businesses regarding the state of their storefronts. Council Member Vincent said Highway 19 is the front porch of Baker, with an immense amount of traffic, and it should look nice. He asked that everyone continue to pick up the trash in front of their house or business and on their street – to keep the City of Baker beautiful.

Council Member Dunn thanked the Mayor and City employees for cleaning up the Little League Pond and having the pond's bridge rebuilt. She said she and the Mayor will meet with BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson regarding building a community center in Baker on Friday. She said a community center would provide a place for kids to attend summer camp, receive tutoring and participate in various other activities offered by such facilities. Council Member Dunn announced the Get Hooked on Family Fishing Tournament is being held Saturday, June 12, 2021 at the Little League Pond. The tournament is free and open to participants 12 and under. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and tournament starts at 9:00 a.m. Online registration is available. For more information call (225) 400-4277. Council Member Dunn reminded everyone we are still in a pandemic and suggested those who feel it necessary continue to wear their masks, and everyone continue to wash their hands, and practice social distancing.

Council Member Bryant said the ordinance regarding impeding drainage is Ordinance 2017-26. This information can be found at www.municode.com – Chapter 21, Article 1, Section 21-1. She reminded everyone that there is a fine attached for violators.

Council Member Young said he will be volunteering at the fishing tournament being held Saturday. He said he is sponsoring three kids for the event and encouraged his colleagues to do the same. Council Member Young said he feels it is a wonderful idea and extremely beneficial to the kids in our community. He stated he hopes it becomes an annual event in the City.

Council Member Jackson thanked the residents of Chaleur subdivision for their patience with the ongoing roadwork in their neighborhood. She stated on June 7, 2021, Tony Garcia with M-Trak, LLC provided an update on the Asphalt Street Rehabilitation Program. Mr. Garcia said in addition to experiencing delays from weather, every road has had major utility conflicts causing soft spots and recuts. He also said once the road was milled the sub grade below seemed to fall apart, necessitating the use of lime. The use of lime adds more time to the process. Mr. Garcia stated they appreciate everyone's patience, and their mission is to give the residents of Chaleur subdivision a quality product.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor announced breast and colorectal cancer screenings will be held on Saturday, June 12, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Heritage Museum.

The Mayor announced the City of Baker's first Juneteenth Festival will be held Saturday, June 19, 2021 from Noon to 6:00 p.m. at Advantage Charter Academy.

The Mayor said they continue to look for grants to fund clean-up work on canals throughout the City.

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 June 8, 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
June 8, 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 June 8, 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 May 25, 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 Commissioners Dunn/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 June 8, 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
June 8, 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 June 8, 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 May 25, 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 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 June 8, 2021.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council