

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3325 GROOM ROAD, BAKER, LOUISIANA 70714
www.youtube.com/@bakerforward
October 14, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on October 14, 2025, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

MAYOR
Darnell Waites

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Dr. Charles Vincent
Robert Young

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Waites presided.
The invocation was given by Council Member Murphy.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Vincent.

***** Public comments will be allowed on all agenda items. Such comments shall not exceed 3 minutes and shall be confined to the agenda item and any proposed disposition thereof.*****

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 September 23, 2025.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.
YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognize Mrs. Sarah Holliday James (Mayor)
The mayor recognized cancer survivor Mrs. Sarah Holliday James.

A proclamation honoring Mrs. James was read.

The proclamation declaring October 2025 Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Baker was read.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The mayor presented Mrs. James with the proclamation and a City of Baker medallion.

2. Recognize the Baker High School Symphony of Soul Band for placing 3rd in the Small Band Division at Southern University's High School Battle of the Bands (Collins)

Council Member Collins recognized the Baker High School Symphony of Soul Band for placing 3rd in the Small Band Division at Southern University's High School Battle of the Bands.

3. Recognize October as ADHD Awareness Month (Collins)

Council Member Collins recognized October as ADHD Awareness Month. She provided an overview of ADHD and explained that it manifests itself differently in everyone. Council Member Collins stressed that people living with ADHD are not alone.

4. Miranda Georgetown-Riley – Magnolia Rose Foundation (Collins)

Council Member Collins asked Miranda Georgetown-Riley, the Magnolia Rose Foundation, to speak. Mrs. Riley provided an overview of the foundation, its mission and goals, and asked that everyone support their endeavors. She announced the 4th Annual Magnolia Rose Foundation Ball "Gatsby Gala" is being held Saturday, November 1, 2025, from 8:00 p.m. to Midnight at the Baker Municipal Auditorium. Mrs. Riley stated the ball helps fund free play dates for autistic, exceptional, and neurotypical kids to learn about each other's differences in fun and safe environments.

5. Introduce Jeremy Jackson – Fire and Police Civil Service Board (Murphy)

Council Member Murphy introduced Jeremy Jackson who was recently appointed to the Fire and Police Civil Service Board.

6. Introduce Denise Williams – Fire and Police Civil Service Board (Murphy)

Council Member Murphy introduced Denise Williams who was recently appointed to the Fire and Police Civil Service Board.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring October 2025 Pastor and Clergy Appreciation Month in the City of Baker (Murphy)

Council Member Murphy asked that this agenda item be tabled until the next meeting.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to table this agenda item.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Proclamation declaring October 2025 Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

This agenda item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

3. Proclamation declaring October 2025 Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent asked that this agenda item be tabled until the next meeting.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to table this agenda item.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Newly elected 19th Judicial District Judge Vicky Jones introduced herself, thanked everyone for their support in the recent election, and said she looks forward to serving the Baker community.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2025-6, regulations regarding automobile repair work and oil changes in residential and subdivision areas and to provide for other matters regarding to the same (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2025-6.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Change November 25, 2025 and December 23, 2025 council meeting dates (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Dunn to change the date of the November 25, 2025 council meeting to Tuesday, November 18, 2025, and change the date of the December 23, 2025 council meeting to Tuesday, December 16, 2025.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Schedule a work session to discuss setbacks for new development (Dunn)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Murphy to schedule a work session to discuss setbacks for new development on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Schedule a work session to discuss tire business ordinance (Vincent)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to schedule a work session to discuss a tire ordinance on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. District 2 announcements (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn announced a District 2 committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 in the Civic Room of the Municipal Auditorium at 5:00 p.m. She thanked the mayor for the work being done at the park on N. Magnolia, saying the project is going well. Council Member Dunn said the renaming ceremony held at the cemetery in honor of Pete Heine was wonderful and commended the mayor and his staff.

Council Member Vincent thanked Council Member Collins for the Eiffel Tower keychain she gave council members. Council Member Vincent presented his colleagues with cards containing keychains from Peru and Columbia, and recounted some of the highlights of his recent trip to South America. He thanked the city for cutting the grass in the ditch near the bridge on Sprucewood. He also thanked the Public Works Department for cutting the limbs at Mr. Robert's house on Felicity. Council Member Vincent said the ditches on Thomas Road still need to be cut, as well as the ditch on Morvant near Amerest.

Council Member Collins acknowledged the Baker Chamber of Commerce for hosting their annual banquet. She reminded everyone of the recreational activities available in the City of Baker. She invited everyone to join her for the District 3 walks which begin at 5:00. Council Member Collins announced Trunk or Treat will be held on Friday, October 31, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. She said the Baker Fire Department is currently offering free smoke detectors and installation for interested residents. She announced the Elvin Howard Pancreatic Cancer 5K run will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2025. She announced Baker High School's homecoming is Friday, October 24, 2025. Council Member Collins announced the Baker Fresh Market will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2025. She thanked the mayor and his staff for the LED lights on Groom Road. She announced CenterWell on Groom Road is hosting a tailgate party for seniors on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. Council Member Collins stated she represented the City of Baker on her recent trip to Paris, saying she attended a meeting and left information from Baker with those in Paris. She thanked everyone for their prayers and support.

Council Member Young stated that he and the mayor will be meeting with a breakfast place in Gonzales about the possibility of opening a location in the City of Baker. He thanked the clerk for providing him with information regarding security lights from Entergy. Council Member Young thanked everyone who checked on him during and after his hospital stay.

Council Member Murphy said he is thankful for the work that has been done on Lavey Lane. He encouraged everyone to tell their clergy and pastors that they are appreciated, as October is Pastor and Clergy Appreciation Month.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The mayor commended the Public Works Department for their hard work and dedication while repairing a major water leak that affected a huge number of residents.

Council Member Vincent asked if residents were made aware of the situation and resulting activity. The mayor said it was disseminated on GovDelivery and reiterated the importance of everyone in the community utilizing this invaluable tool to stay informed. The mayor said that communication is vital, that it is imperative that everyone communicate with one another.

CONDEMNATIONS

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
 - e. Main Street District Committee

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adjourn.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, 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 October 14, 2025.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NORMAN E. “PETE” HEINE MEMORIAL GARDENS
CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
October 14, 2025**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, sitting as the Board of Commissioners for Norman E. “Pete” Heine Memorial Gardens, met in regular session on October 14, 2025, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS
Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Dr. Charles Vincent
Darnell Waites
Robert Young

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Waites presided.

Commissioner Dunn stated the name of the cemetery needs to be changed on the minutes, as it is no longer Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, but Norman E. “Pete” Heine Memorial Gardens.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 23, 2025.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, 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 Murphy to adjourn.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, 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 October 14, 2025.

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
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
October 14, 2025**

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 October 14, 2025, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
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 Dunn/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 23, 2025.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, 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 Dunn to adjourn.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, 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 October 14, 2025.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council