

**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
December 16, 2025 – 3:30 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on December 16, 2025, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

MAYOR
Darnell Waites

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

ABSENT
Rochelle Dunn

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 Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 9, 2025.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.
YEAS: Collins, Murphy, Vincent, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Dunn
ABSTAIN: None
The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS
1. Approve preliminary site plan for Crestview Village Manufactured Home Community
5885 Lavey Lane
Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the preliminary site plan for Crestview Village Manufactured Home Community.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.
YEAS: Collins, Murphy, Vincent, Young
NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dunn

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring the week of December 26, 2025 – January 1, 2026, as Celebration of Kwanzaa Week in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent provided an overview of Kwanzaa and distributed informational materials about the celebration.

The proclamation was read by Mayor Waites.

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

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dunn

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Proclamation declaring January 2026 National Blood Donor Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

The proclamation was read by the Clerk of the Council.

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

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dunn

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2025-23, an ordinance providing for the levy of a sales and use tax of one percent (1%) within the Baker Main Street Economic Development District for the City of Baker, Louisiana; and for other matters with respect thereto on all taxable property (Murphy)

Dante Bidwell, Lead Consultant – Economic Development, provided an overview of the proposed ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Collins to introduce Ordinance 2025-23.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dunn

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

PUBLIC MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. Season's greetings to all, etc. (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent wished everyone Season's Greetings and asked that they be safe this holiday season. He said many constituents have reported their streetlights out in areas off of Lavey Lane, specifically where work is being done on gas lines. The mayor said he is aware of the situation. The Inspection Department reported that DEMCO is aware of the situation as well, and they are currently working to resolve the issue. These repairs require underground work and will take time to complete, they have asked for residents' patience and understanding. Council Member Vincent invited everyone out to the program he has organized and is co-sponsoring in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Justice Sunday. *Heroes of African American History Series* – "The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." The program will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Baker Branch Library. Council Member Vincent will distribute back to school supplies to the first eight students in attendance.

Council Member Collins recognized Helix School System and Mentorship Academy for hosting a play in the community, saying it's a beautiful opportunity for young people to be able to express themselves. She thanked the City of Baker for providing resources that helped make the production possible.

Council Member Murphy said he is excited to work with the Main Street Economic Development District and thanked his colleagues for the opportunity to represent them on the organization's board. Council Member Murphy said he appreciates the trust his colleagues have placed in him.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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 Members Collins/Vincent to adjourn.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dunn

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

**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 December 16, 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
December 16, 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 December 16, 2025, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

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

ABSENT
Rochelle Dunn

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 December 9, 2025.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

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

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 Vincent to adjourn.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.
YEAS: Collins, Murphy, Vincent, Waites, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Dunn
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by 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 Board of Commissioners for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on December 16, 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
December 16, 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 December 16, 2025, with the following members attending:

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

ABSENT
Rochelle Dunn

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 Murphy/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 9, 2025.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

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

Commissioner Vincent thanked the mayor and his staff for the second report that was sent out to residents along with their utility bills.

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 Vincent to adjourn.
YEAS: Collins, Murphy, Vincent, Waites, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Dunn
ABSTAIN: None
The motion passed by 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 Board of Commissioners of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on December 16, 2025.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council