

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
January 13, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on January 13, 2026, 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 Young.

***** 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 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.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring January 2026 Cervical Health Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

The proclamation was read by Aneatra Boykin.

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

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Admon McCastle initiated discussion regarding funding as a result of Dr. Vincent's efforts.

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 February 2026 Black History Awareness Month – “A Century of Black History Commemorations” in the City of Baker (Vincent)

The proclamation was read by Aneatra Boykin.

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

Council Member Vincent invited everyone to attend the 2026 installment of his February series, “Heroes in African American History,” on the first black elected officials in Louisiana. The theme for Black History Month this year is “A Century of Black History Commemorations.” The program will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Baker Branch Library. Council Member Vincent will autograph copies of his publication “Black Legislators in Louisiana During Reconstruction” published by Southern Illinois University Press following the program.

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.

Council Member Vincent provided an overview of Dr. Carter G. Woodson’s contributions to the establishment of the study and our current understanding of African American history. Dr. Woodson is known as the “Father of Black History.”

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2026-1 Sales & Use Tax (Mayor)

Aneatra Boykin read the title of the ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Members Dunn/Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2026-1.

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. Introduce Ordinance 2026-2 Insurance License Tax (Mayor)

Aneatra Boykin read the title of the ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Members Dunn/Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2026-2.

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. Introduce Ordinance 2026-3 Occupational License Tax (Mayor)
Aneatra Boykin read the title of the ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2026-3.

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. Introduce Ordinance 2026-4 Chain Store License Tax (Mayor)

Aneatra Boykin read the title of the ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Murphy to introduce Ordinance 2026-4.

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.

5. Introduce Ordinance 2026-5 Alcoholic Beverage Tax (Mayor)

Aneatra Boykin read the title of the ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Murphy to introduce Ordinance 2026-5.

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.

6. Introduce Ordinance 2026-6, Property Tax (Mayor)

Aneatra Boykin read the title of the ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2026-6.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Discussion regarding property taxes in the City of Baker was held.

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.

7. Introduce Ordinance 2026-7, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact City of Baker Code of Ordinances Article V, Section 44 concerning Civic Center and Municipal Building lease/rent fees and to provide for other matters regarding the same (Mayor)

Aneatra Boykin read Section 1 of the ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Collins to introduce Ordinance 2026-7.

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

1. Adopt 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) (Introduced 12/16/2025)

Public meeting was held.

Dante Bidwell, Lead Consultant – Economic Development, provided an overview of the proposed ordinance, and the organization's vision and goals, as well as an explanation of how these things are to be implemented.

Council Member Vincent, president of the Baker Economic Development District and Convention Center board, made a motion to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

Shawntell Parker, 1018 Sherron, initiated discussion by asking that the board and city be transparent about the funds generated by the tax and how they will be used.

Extensive discussion regarding the concerns and comments made by residents and Baker Main Street Economic Development District board members followed.

Council Member Vincent stated he wished to abstain from voting on this agenda item and provided an explanation as to why he is choosing to do so.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Collins to allow Council Member Vincent to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Discussion regarding Council Member Vincent's request was held.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

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

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: Vincent
The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. Orange cones on Lavey Lane, etc. (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent stated he has constituents who inquired as to why there are still orange cones on Lavey Lane and said he thought the reason is the project has not been entirely completed. He went on to say that the contractors have done a wonderful job with their work on the road. Council Member Vincent said some residents of Parkwood Terrace feel the contractor needs to come back and address the unevenness at the entrance of the subdivision. Council Member Vincent said he has constituents who have expressed concerns regarding a group home in District 1. The mayor asked that he set up a meeting with him to discuss this matter. He again thanked the mayor for the work done on Lavey Lane.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The mayor reminded everyone of the Martin Luther King, Jr. program on Monday.

The mayor invited everyone to the Chamber of Commerce lunch being held Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. at Greenwood Park to hear the state of the city address.

Council Member Collins reminded everyone of the GBR Interact meetings held every Monday in the civic center at 6:30 p.m. She said the meetings provide ACT prep, community service initiatives, and facilitate college tours, all free of charge, and are open to all interested high school students. Council Member Collins stated the most recent ACT scores of some of the participants have shown a six-point growth, going from a score of 13 to a score of 19.

Council Member Young stated he recently attended an Interact meeting and both the program and the kids are amazing.

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 Vincent seconded by Council Member Dunn to adjourn.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Shawntell Parker, 1018 Sherron, asked that the proposed budget for 2026 and the actual budget for 2025 be posted on the city's website.

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 January 13, 2026.

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
January 13, 2026

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 January 13, 2026, 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.

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 16, 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

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages submitted a financial report.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Murphy to accept the financial report.

The mayor 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.

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 for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on January 13, 2026.

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
January 13, 2026

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 January 13, 2026, 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 Commissioner Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 16, 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

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages submitted a financial report.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to accept the financial report.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Murphy, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: Dunn

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-1.

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/Murphy to adjourn.

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 January 13, 2026.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council