

Baker Main Street Economic Development District Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 2, 2026

Time: 4:03 PM

Location: Baker Fire Department
3701 Groom Rd.
Baker, LA 70714

1. Call to Order, Prayer, and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Board President Cedric Murphy who led the prayer and Willie Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Roll Call

| Board Member | Role | Present |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cedric Murphy | President | Yes |
| Willie Williams | Treasurer | Yes |
| Michel Woods | Member | Yes |
| Myra Victor-Harris | Member | Yes |
| Shaelisa Bradley-Hunt | Vice President | Yes |
| Kermit Johnson IV | Secretary | Yes |
| Adrienne Conrad | Member | No |

Quorum confirmed.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- **Motion to Adopt:** Willie Williams
- **Seconded By:** Michel Woods
- **Result:** Motion carried unanimously.

4. Presentation by Villavaso and Associates

Fred Neal presented on behalf of Villavaso and Associates, including a draft vision statement for Main Street. That vision emphasizes revitalizing Main Street as a vibrant, thriving commercial corridor, focuses on serving Baker residents with retail/commercial services, drawing families from inside and outside Baker, and connecting government, schools, parks, recreation, and entertainment. He framed this as a core theme the board can use when communicating with, business and property owners, public officials, funders and partners.

Additionally, Fred explained that the coming report includes a specific section on design standards that will translate into a Baker Main Street commercial corridor overlay zoning standards document. These recommendations will include mandatory rules that will become law once adopted by the City Council. They govern things like parking lot design, lighting (especially parking lot lighting), general architectural form and site layout. They are not designing specific buildings but setting rules for what private development should look like generally across commercial corridors.

5. Finalizing Plans for the Board Introductory Event

The board discussed the upcoming meet-and-greet/introductory session between the Main Street EDD board and businesses within the district boundaries. The mayor wants the City directly involved, and even invited the board to use the City Auditorium as the host site.

The board decided to host the event on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 6pm in the City Auditorium. Board member, Myra Harris, volunteered to take the lead on creating a flyer and eventbrite page for the event. While Michel Woods offered the Chamber as a resource to help advertise for the event, and provide refreshments.

6. Discussion of Financial Policies and Banking Options

Dante Bidwell walked the board through a one-page fact sheet on finance, policies, and practices for the Main Street EDD. This fact sheet pulled language directly from the legislation that created the district and the BMSEDD bylaws adopted by the board. This fact sheet was meant to put everything in one clean, clear place so everyone understands how EDD money will be managed and a non-exhaustive list of intended and permitted uses; including an EDD website, marketing, staffing, infrastructure improvements, small business supports and more.

The Board also decided to create a finance committee. The board voted that Treasurer, Willie Williams, Vice-President, Shaelisa Hunt, and President, Cedric Murphy, would make up the initial Finance Committee.

- **Motion By:** Michel Woods
- **Seconded By:** Shaelisa Bradley-Hunt
- **Result:** Motion carried 5-1 (Kermit Johnson, IV opposed).

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5pm.

- **Motion By:** Willie Williams
- **Seconded By:** Shaelisa Bradley-Hunt
- **Result:** Motion carried unanimously