

**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
February 10, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on February 10, 2026, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

MAYOR

Darnell Waites

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Desiree Collins

Rochelle Dunn

Cedric Murphy

Robert Young

ABSENT

Dr. Charles Vincent

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Waites presided.

The invocation was given by Council Member Murphy.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Dunn.

***** 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 Murphy, seconded by Council Member Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2026.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. CATS Chief Executive Officer Theo Richards and Brandon Songy to provide a report on LYNX (Collins)

CATS Chief Executive Officer Theo Richards provided a report on the LYNX program and an overview of the services they provide in the City of Baker.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Pursuant to LA. R.S. 42:19.1 – Notice of consideration of action regarding ad valorem tax (Mayor – on behalf of the Baker Fire Department Union)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Baker, State of Louisiana will meet on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., at the City Hall, 3325 Groom Road, Baker, Louisiana, at which time there will be consideration of

action regarding calling an election to authorize the levy and collection of an ad valorem tax for the purpose of providing funds for salaries for third engine personnel and increasing salaries and benefits for all employees of the Fire Department of the City who are members of the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service System.

Aneatra Boykin read the notice of consideration of action regarding ad valorem tax.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Adopt Ordinance 2026-1 Sales & Use Tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/13/2026)
Public meeting was held.

Aneatra Boykin read a portion of the ordinance title.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Collins to adopt Ordinance 2026-1.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Adopt Ordinance 2026-2 Insurance License Tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/13/2026)
Public meeting was held.

Aneatra Boykin read a portion of the ordinance title.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2026-2.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

3. Adopt Ordinance 2026-3 Occupational License Tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/13/2026)
Public meeting was held.

Aneatra Boykin read a portion of the ordinance title.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

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

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: None
ABSENT: Vincent
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

4. Adopt Ordinance 2026-4 Chain Store License Tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/13/2026)

Public meeting was held.

Aneatra Boykin read a portion of the ordinance title.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

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

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

5. Adopt Ordinance 2026-5 Alcoholic Beverage Tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/13/2026)

Public meeting was held.

Aneatra Boykin read a portion of the ordinance title.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

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

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

6. Adopt 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) (Introduced 1/13/2026)

Public meeting was held.

Aneatra Boykin read a portion of the ordinance title.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

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

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: None
ABSENT: Vincent
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Dr. Toni Jackson asked about being allowed to comment on agenda item number one under New Business. She said residents would like information regarding the proposed tax, as many have questions and concerns. The mayor stated there would be no comments or questions because nothing is being voted on.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. District 2 announcements (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn acknowledged the mayor for receiving a veteran's heart from the Louisiana Department of Veteran Affairs. She suggested that the city place hearts for veterans at city hall next year to recognize them on Valentine's Day. Council Member Dunn thanked Mr. Vessell and all of the constituents of District 2 who regularly work with her to better the community.

2. Baker Main Street Economic Development District is having a Meet & Greet to introduce ourselves to the business owners on Baker Main Street. We will share what our business goals are and how this new tax will help strengthen Baker Main Street for sales growth and economic development. We are asking businesses owners on Main Street to meet us at the Baker Municipal Center on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Murphy)

Council Member Murphy announced the Baker Main Street Economic Development District will host a Meet & Greet to introduce themselves to the business owners on Baker Main Street. He said they will share what their business goals are and how this new tax will help strengthen Baker Main Street for sales growth and economic development. They are asking businesses owners on Main Street to meet them at the Baker Municipal Center on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT: Districts 1 and 5 will host a citywide meeting with the Police Department to discuss crime and other concerns in the city on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. (Vincent)

Council Member Murphy announced that Districts 1 and 5 will host a citywide meeting with the Police Department to discuss crime and other concerns in the city on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

REMINDER: Council Member Vincent's Black History Month program is scheduled for Saturday, February 28, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Baker Branch Library (Vincent)

The mayor reminded everyone of Council Member Vincent's Black History Month program scheduled for Saturday, February 28, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Baker Branch Library.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The mayor reported that the park on N. Magnolia is coming along.

The mayor stated the city received help from Senator Kennedy which will assist with the proposed fire station on the west side of the city.

The mayor said work on Groom Road is moving forward.

Council Member Collins acknowledged the Louisiana Municipal Association for celebrating 100 years of service to the public.

Administrative Officer Angela Machen stated the city obtained a clearance grant that will allow the city to demolish approximately ten properties on the condemnation list, thus ridding the community of long-term blight.

CONDEMNATIONS

1. Vote to demolish 1905 Alabama Street (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Dunn to demolish 1905 Alabama Street.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Vote to demolish 1008 Epperson Street (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to demolish 1008 Epperson Street.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

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 Collins seconded by Council Member Murphy to adjourn.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

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 February 10, 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
February 10, 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 February 10, 2026, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS

Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Darnell Waites
Robert Young

ABSENT

Dr. Charles Vincent

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 Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2026.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

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 Dunn to adjourn.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

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 Norman E. "Pete" Heine Memorial Gardens held on February 10, 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
February 10, 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 February 10, 2026, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Darnell Waites
Robert Young

ABSENT

Dr. Charles Vincent

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 Collins/Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2026.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

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 Murphy to adjourn.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

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 February 10, 2026.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council