

**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 24, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on February 24, 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 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 Murphy, seconded by Council Member Collins to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 10, 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. Recognitions from District 3 (Collins)

Council Member Collins recognized the city for hosting the Radiant Black Women event last Sunday. She thanked the mayor, his amazing team, Ashley Williams, and Audrey Perry for their hard work. She also thanked Representative Barbara Carpenter.

Council Member Collins recognized Elevate Church, pastored by Ketih Richard, that has moved near the City of Baker. She said she is looking forward to the great things in North Baton Rouge.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Schedule a work session to discuss setbacks for homes built in the City of Baker (Dunn)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Murphy to schedule a work session to discuss setbacks for homes built in the City of Baker on Monday, March 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

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.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Adopt Ordinance 2026-6 Property Tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/13/2026)
Public meeting was held.

Aneatra Boykin read the ordinance title.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Collins to adopt Ordinance 2026-6.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. 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.

Council Member Dunn said residents of District 2 should go by and see the park on N. Magnolia, saying it looks really good. She stated that numerous people approached her following the event on Sunday to say how impressed they were with how the mayor handled himself. Council Member Dunn said she really appreciates the mayor.

Council Member Young said he is very impressed with the work being done at the park on N. Magnolia. He stated the overriding message he received from the program on Sunday was one of unity and he commended the mayor's efforts to unify the City of Baker.

2. 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.

Council Member Young commended Calvin Jyles of the Public Works Department and the Inspection Department for the work they do for the city.

Council Member Collins announced that the Baker Jr. Buffs are having their banquet in the auditorium this evening and asked her colleagues to stop by following the council meeting to show their support to the children of the community.

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)

Council Member Dunn 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 Cleo Fields blessed the city with \$250,000.00 to get the baseball field on Jefferson Street started. The city will meet with BREC next week regarding the park.

The mayor stated work on the transit center continues.

The mayor said an increased number of recreation opportunities are being realized in the city.

The mayor said construction on the new subdivision on Baker Boulevard, Trinity Estates, will begin soon.

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 Dunn 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 24, 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 24, 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 24, 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 February 10, 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 24, 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 24, 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 24, 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 Commissioner Collins to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 10, 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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on February 24, 2026.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council