

**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](http://www.youtube.com/@bakerforward)  
March 10, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on March 10, 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 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 Murphy, seconded by Council Member Collins to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 24, 2026.

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**

1. A Hero's Recognition – Council Member Robert Young (Young)  
Council Member Young recognized members of the Baker Fire and Police Departments for their role in assisting in the emergency delivery of a baby in the Walmart parking lot last week. The following individuals were recognized for their heroic efforts: Baker Police Lieutenant Amber Northern, Baker Police Officer La'Nisha Jackson, Baker Police Officer Adam Bradford, Baker Police Officer Skylar Caballero, Baker Police Officer Jordan Hilliard, Baker District Fire Chief Ronald Brady, Baker Firefighter/Operator Or'Ron Clark, and Baker Firefighter/Operator Alexander Gaines.

**PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS**

**RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Resolution calling election (Mayor)

A portion of the resolution was read by Mayor Darnell Waites.

Carmen Lavergne, Butler Snow, provided a brief overview of the resolution.

Council Member Vincent initiated discussion regarding amending the resolution so that the term “perpetuity” is removed and a time limit is placed on the collection of the proposed ad valorem tax. Council Member Vincent suggested that the resolution be amended so that the tax is collected for a finite period of ten years.

Discussion regarding amending the resolution was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to amend the resolution by changing the term “perpetuity” to ten years.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

The motion was made by Council Member Collins, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt the resolution.

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. Resolution to accept the final inspection notice for the Baker Boulevard & Bentley Drive improvements project (Mayor)

The resolution was read by Administrative Officer Angela Machen.

The motion was made by Council Member Collins, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt the resolution.

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. Proclamation declaring March 2026 Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

The proclamation was read by Administrative Officer Angela Machen.

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

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. Proclamation declaring March 2026 Women’s History Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

The proclamation was read by Administrative Officer Angela Machen.

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, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Introduce Ordinance 2026-8, an ordinance to designate and declare certain City of Baker assets surplus and scrap and for related matters (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Collins, seconded by Council Members Murphy/Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2026-8.

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**

##### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS**

1. CenterWell of Baker will announce Wellderly Care. Dr. Tolulope Famuyiro and Robin Bennett (Collins)

Council Member Collins stated Centerwell of Baker is introducing Wellderly Care with Dr. Tolulope Famuyiro and Robin Bennett.

Dr. Tolulope Famuyiro gave an overview of the services provided at the CenterWell Senior Primary Care facility. She encouraged all eligible residents to avail themselves of the myriad services offered.

Announcement – “Rooted in Faith, Growing in Community” event March 29, 2026, from noon to 4:00 p.m. (Collins)

Council Member Collins announced “Rooted in Faith, Growing in Community” a fifth Sunday family day event will be held Sunday, March 29, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at MLK Park. The event is free and open to the community.

City of Baker Recreation Association is hosting sign up for baseball season.

Volunteer coaches and athletes ages 4-12 are invited to register (Collins)

Council Member Collins announced the City of Baker Recreation Association is hosting sign up for baseball, T-ball, and coaches pitch. Volunteer coaches and athletes ages 4-12 are encouraged to register.

Congratulations to Chief Carl Dunn on his television premier regarding Black History achievements (Collins)

Council Member Collins congratulated Chief Carl Dunn on his television premier regarding Black History achievements.

2. Reminder of work session March 23, 2026, for new homes built setback and sides (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn reminded everyone of the work session to discuss setbacks for homes built in the City of Baker scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. She stated that the park on N. Magnolia looks tremendous and that she is very excited about the project. Council Member Dunn asked that anyone interested in donating to the project contact the mayor. She also suggested that the city contact Baton Rouge General regarding having their mobile unit come in and set up so that residents can partake of the services offered, saying it would be good for the community.

3. Thanks to the Utility Department and its leadership for all they do, thanks to the Public Works Department and its leadership for all they do, thanks to Chief Dunn and the police department for the city-wide town hall meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup> on crime in Baker, etc. (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent thanked the Utility Department and its leadership for being incredibly helpful to him when he was out of the country. He thanked the Public Works Department and its leadership for all they do and asked that they address the gas leak on Longvue. He thanked Chief Dunn, Lieutenant Harrell, and Council Member Murphy for the city-wide meeting that was held on February 26, 2026. Council Member Vincent thanked the mayor and his colleagues for all they do. He asked the mayor if he was approached about the possibility of speed bumps on Sinbad as well as on Arkansas and Van Buren. He said he advised those who asked him about speed bumps how to begin the process of having the city consider installing them in the desired locations.

Council Member Young stated that residents in Baker Heights are no longer interested in having speed bumps installed in that area. He also expressed his excitement about the park on N. Magnolia. Council Member Young asked his colleagues to be mindful of school activities taking place in the community and the impact they can have on the city's youth. He encouraged them to be mentors to the young people in our community. Council Member Young said attending council meetings in other cities provides an excellent opportunity for observation and learning.

Council Member Dunn gave a shout out to the mayor regarding the work he is doing with blighted property.

## **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

The mayor said work on the clearance grant has been executed and the city is now in building mode or growth stage.

The mayor announced that Senator Regina Barrow will host a meeting tomorrow at the Baker Branch Library at 6:30 p.m.

The mayor announced the city will host a pop-up shop in the park Easter weekend – Thursday, Friday and Saturday. He said it will be a regularly scheduled event for the next six months. He asked that everyone come out and show their support.

The mayor said the City of Baker is working closely with District 2 Metro Council Member Anthony Kenney on developing north Baton Rouge.

The mayor stated that the city needs volunteers and asked that anyone interested reach out and become involved.

District 2 Metro Council Member Anthony Kenney said that the city-parish is moving forward and reiterated that anything he can do to support the City of Baker will be done. He said they will continue to strive to be good partners and neighbors to the City of Baker, while seeking to develop north Baton Rouge in ways that are beneficial to all surrounding communities.

## **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 Vincent to adjourn.

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.

**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 March 10, 2026.

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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  
March 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 March 10, 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 Commissioner Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 24, 2026.

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
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 Norman E. "Pete" Heine Memorial Gardens held on March 10, 2026.

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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  
March 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 March 10, 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 Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 24, 2026.

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
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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on March 10, 2026.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council