

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

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on March 24, 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 Dunn.

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 Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 10, 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. Recognize Patsy Mullins for her tireless efforts and continuous work to Keep Baker Beautiful (Mayor)

The mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled until the next meeting.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring March 2026 Multiple Sclerosis 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 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.

2. Proclamation declaring March 2026 National Kidney 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 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.

3. Proclamation declaring April 2026 Child Abuse Prevention 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 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. Presentation of City of Baker elected officials and community civility pledge (Collins)

Council Member Collins, after attending the National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D.C., proposed that city leaders adopt a civility pledge. The pledge would create norms for appropriate behavior. An ordinance regarding the civility pledge will be introduced and adopted in the coming weeks.

Council Member Collins elaborated further on her time at the National League of Cities Conference saying that she is incredibly grateful for having been afforded the opportunity to attend. She stated city leaders plan to create committees in order to facilitate greater community participation and utilization of resources and residents' skills.

2. Tire ordinance for Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent reiterated the importance of adopting a tire ordinance in the City of Baker that mirrors the ordinance adopted by Baton Rouge. The ordinance would provide guidelines and regulations for those businesses that deal with tires, as well as acting as a means of ensuring that storefronts remain presentable.

The mayor said the proposed tire ordinance will be introduced at the next council meeting.

PUBLIC MEETING

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

3/10/2026)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Members Vincent/Young to adopt 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Report from the National League of Cities Conference – Washington, D.C. (Mayor)

The mayor reported that the National League of Cities Conference was really good this year, saying it provided incredible networking opportunities. He said they were able to meet with Representative Fields and Senator Cassidy to discuss funding for various projects throughout the city.

The mayor asked that residents be mindful of bills being proposed and how they affect the City of Baker. He asked that members of the community take a vested interest, become involved and contact their representatives to voice their opinions and concerns.

The mayor said the city continues to replace gas and sewer lines, building the infrastructure that recent growth will necessitate. He said the city is in a growth stage.

The mayor said installation of LED lighting continues throughout the city.

Council Member Collins commended the mayor on the work he did at the National League of Cities Conference.

Council Member Murphy said the National League of Cities Conference accentuated for him the importance of local government and leaders and what they do for their constituents. He spoke about the importance of housing and real estate to economic development, saying they are key factors for facilitating growth and prosperity. Council Member Murphy stated the city needs strong housing policies that tie to economic development, and the council is in a position to ensure this happens.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. District 2 announcements (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn said the National League of Cities Conference was a great time and an educational and learning experience. She said one of the key takeaways for her was hearing that in order to be a great city, a city must be unified. She said it is imperative that leaders and residents come together. Council Member Dunn stated the importance of voting was also discussed at the conference and it is an issue that must be addressed. Council Member Dunn thanked Calvin Jyles, Public Works Department, for taking care of the tree that fell on a church in her district over the weekend.

2. Speeding in neighborhoods, grass cutting and drain basins, etc. (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent thanked the mayor for the work being done to replace the gas lines. He stated that speeding in the neighborhood is still a problem, and asked residents to be careful while driving. Council Member Vincent reminded everyone to not blow grass clippings and debris into catch basins or ditches, as this is extremely detrimental to drainage. He reminded everyone to do all they can to keep the community beautiful.

Council Member Collins announced the Citizen of the Year has been selected.

Council Member Collins thanked the Public Works Department for repairing a water line.

Council Member Collins said the City of Baker Recreation Association is having sign-up for T-Ball, baseball, and coaches pitch.

Council Member Collins announced “Rooted in Faith, Growing in Community” a fifth Sunday family day event will be held Sunday, March 29, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at MLK Park. The event is free and open to the community.

Council Member Collins announced that Bern Nadette Stanis, Thelma from Good Times, will be at Refining Fire, a women’s conference being held Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Tickets for the event are \$81.00.

Council Member Young said he and Council Member Vincent weren’t thanked for holding the city down while the other council members attended the conference, to much amusement.

The mayor encouraged everyone to sign up for Gov Delivery in order to remain aware of things going on in the city.

The mayor reminded everyone that 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 announced the Chamber of Commerce golf tournament is coming up.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

1. 1916 Florida (Mayor)
2. 2235 Chamberlain (Mayor)
3. 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)
4. White house next door to 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)
5. 12979 Wedgewood (Mayor)
6. 1008 Epperson (Mayor)
7. Chamberlain Avenue at John Marks (Mayor)
8. 2441 Ray Weiland (Mayor)
9. 4331 Amerest

The mayor said the city would like the owners of properties on the condemnation list to come forward and rehabilitate their property.

Council Member Dunn announced Delta Sigma Theta will host a class and attorneys will prepare wills for free.

A resident who lives on Sinbad Street stated she has been unable to get the name of the contractor who is working on the gas lines in her area. The mayor stated he would provide that information following the meeting.

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.

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

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council