

**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
April 14, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on April 14, 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 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 Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 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. Recognize Patsy Mullen for her tireless efforts and continuous work to Keep Baker Beautiful (Mayor)

The mayor recognized Patsy Mullen for her tireless efforts and continuous work to Keep Baker Beautiful.

2. Recognize Mr. William and Mrs. Jewel London Payne for celebrating 50 years of marriage and their united commitment of service to the City of Baker (Collins)

The Paynes were unable to attend the meeting, however, Council Member Collins recognized them for celebrating 50 years of marriage and their united commitment of service to the City of Baker.

3. Recognize City of Baker Recreation Association basketball session champions – winners, coaches, and volunteers (Collins)

Council Member Collins recognized the City of Baker Recreation Association basketball session champions, Buffalo Legends Elite and Buffalo Soldiers, as well as the coaches and all of the volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure a stellar season for the participants.

Gerald Collins provided a brief history of the Baker Recreation Association and an overview of the current activities, opportunities, and programs available to the community.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring April 2026 Autism 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 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.

Miranda Georgetown-Riley provided an overview of the Magnolia Rose Foundation for Autism Acceptance, its mission and goals, and asked that everyone support their endeavors. She announced the 5th Annual Rose Color Run is being held Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to Noon at Baker City Park. Mrs. Riley stated the run helps fund free play dates for autistic, exceptional, and neurotypical kids to learn about each other's differences in fun and safe environments.

2. Proclamation declaring April 2026 Occupational Therapy 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 Collins 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 Testicular Cancer 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.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2026-9, an ordinance providing for the levy of a sales and use tax of one percent (1%) within the Baker Main Street Economic Development District for the City of Baker, Louisiana; and for other matters with respect thereto on all taxable property (Murphy)

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Dunn to table this agenda item.

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. Introduce Ordinance 2026-10, an ordinance establishing a temporary moratorium on the issuance of certain permits, licenses, and approvals for used tire shops located on Main Street, Plank Road, and Groom Road within the City of Baker, Louisiana (Mayor)

The title of the ordinance was read by Aneatra Boykin.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to introduce Ordinance 2026-10.

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. Introduce Ordinance 2026-11, an ordinance establishing temporary moratoria on certain zoning, land use, occupancy, and business approvals for barbershops and beauty shops, and for smoke shops and vape shops, within designated corridors of the City of Baker, Louisiana (Mayor)

The title of the ordinance was read by Aneatra Boykin.

Council Member Vincent stated he was contacted by the news media asking for a comment regarding this agenda item. He said his colleagues and the mayor be contacted as well.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2026-11.

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. Introduce Ordinance 2026-12, an ordinance amending the City of Baker Code of Ordinances to establish rules for certain city parks and public recreation areas relating to alcohol, loitering, and supervision of minors (Mayor)

The title of the ordinance was read by Aneatra Boykin.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Collins to introduce Ordinance 2026-12.

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.

5. Introduce Ordinance 2026-13, a tire business ordinance (Vincent)
Council Member Vincent explained the reasoning behind the proposed ordinance as well as a summary of things the city hopes to accomplish by implementing said legislation.

The title of the ordinance was read by Aneatra Boykin.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2026-13.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The mayor said his goal is the same as it was 12 years ago, and that is to take this city to another level, clean it up, and be able to draw people here. He said the city is on track and moving forward.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. District 3 announcements: Inclusive Invitational being held Friday, April 17, 2026, at Santa Maria Golf Course, Magnolia Rose Foundation 5K Color Run and 1 Mile Walk being held Saturday, April 18, 2026, at Baker City Park – Miranda Georgetown-Riley, Bethany mentorship youth development – David Jones, follow-up regarding virtual meeting with United WE (Collins)

Council Member Collins announced the Inclusive Invitational will be held Friday, April 17, 2026, at Santa Maria Golf Course. This is a fundraising event for the Magnolia Rose Foundation. She announced the Magnolia Rose Foundation 5K Color Run and 1 Mile Walk is being held Saturday, April 18, 2026, at Baker City Park. Council Member Collins introduced Mr. David Jones with the Bethany Center for Mentorship.

Mr. Jones provided a brief history and overview of the Bethany Center for Mentorship. He said it began as an initiative to serve schools that are forgotten, lack resources to really help the kids, and are usually the lowest achieving schools. Mr. Jones said the program's goal is to help students thrive both academically and socially.

2. Sunscreen for public workers, support of graduates, good luck on LEAP tests, etc. (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent stressed the importance of sunscreen for public workers. He also expressed his support for graduates and wished all those taking the LEAP test good

luck with their endeavors. Council Member Vincent introduced Ruby Duhe the new director of the Keep Baker Beautiful campaign, and announced that a citywide cleanup is being held Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Participants should meet at the Baker Fire Department. He encouraged everyone to participate.

Ms. Duhe expressed her excitement regarding the Keep Baker Beautiful campaign and asked that everyone join them on Saturday for the citywide cleanup event.

Council Member Vincent announced the Louisiana Black History Hall of Fame is hosting a fundraiser to benefit the refurbishment of the historic Lincoln Theater in Baton Rouge. An evening of jazz and blues will be held Friday, May 15, 2026. For more information call (225) 270-1741 or visit www.lbhhf.org. Council Member Vincent said constituents have contacted him and expressed concerns about the tin buildings next door to the museum. He thanked DOTD for looking at the entrance to Parkwood Terrace subdivision and addressing residents' concerns. Council Member Vincent thanked the mayor for restoring the sign at the entrance of Feliciana subdivision.

Council Member Dunn announced the annual fishing tournament will be held Saturday, June 13, 2026. She also announced that a Voter Outreach Day is being held Sunday, April 19, 2026, at the Baker Branch Library from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Council Member Dunn reiterated the importance of voting.

Lynette Mack spoke about Voter Outreach Day and stressed the importance of voter education, registration and participation.

The mayor stated the city is working on fixing the Leland College sign and the surrounding area in District 2.

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. He stated that the city will resume demolishing properties in July.

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 April 14, 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
April 14, 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 April 14, 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 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

Commissioner Waites introduced the new Cemeterian – Claynishia McGhee.

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 Commissioners Dunn/Murphy 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 April 14, 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
April 14, 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 April 14, 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 Commissioners Murphy/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 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 Commissioners Dunn/Murphy 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 April 14, 2026.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council