

**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 28, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on April 28, 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 comment shall be observed before a vote is taken on any agenda item. 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 Young to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 14, 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 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)
Council Member Collins recognized Mr. William and Mrs. Jewel London Payne for celebrating 50 years of marriage and their united commitment of service to the City of Baker.

2. Recognize Cherie McCastle for her invaluable community service and voter advocacy work (Collins)

Cherie McCastle was unable to attend the meeting, however, Council Member Collins recognized her for her invaluable community service and voter advocacy work.

3. Recognize Kinta Cage for her dedication to the City of Baker, especially District 2, and always answering the call to serve the community without complaint (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn recognized Kinta Cage for her dedication to the City of Baker, especially District 2, and always answering the call to serve the community without complaint.

4. Recognize Kamari Stinson for his dedication to the City of Baker, especially District 2, and always answering the call to serve the community without complaint (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn recognized Kamari Stinson for his dedication to the City of Baker, especially District 2, and always answering the call to serve the community without complaint.

5. Recognize Percy Vessell for his dedication to the City of Baker, especially District 2, and always answering the call to serve the community without complaint (Dunn)

As Mr. Vessell was not in attendance, no action was taken on this agenda item.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring April 2026 Alcohol 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.

2. Proclamation declaring April 2026 Minority Health 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. Change June 9, 2026, council meeting date (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Collins to change the date of the council meeting from June 9, 2026, to Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

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. Schedule work session to review FY2025 audited financial statements (Mayor)
The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Murphy to schedule a work session to review FY 2025 audited financial statements on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

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. Discuss amending Chapter 14 – Offenses and miscellaneous provisions – section 14-103 Disturbing the peace (number 7) Unauthorizing firing of guns in the city limits of Baker and remove from 4 “three or more” thus it would be any person (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent initiated discussion regarding amending certain sections of Chapter 14 of the Baker Code of Ordinances, saying they need to be strengthened. He said there has been an increase in gun violence everywhere. Council Member Vincent proposed meeting with the police department, mayor, attorney, and anyone else who is interested to discuss strengthening the city’s ordinances. The mayor stated that a draft of the proposed amendments could then be presented to the council for their consideration.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Adopt 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) (Introduced 4/14/2026)

Public meeting was held.

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

2. Adopt 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) (Introduced 4/14/2026)

Public meeting was held.

Dante Bidwell spoke about how the passage of the proposed ordinances on tonight’s agenda will serve to facilitate economic development in the city and help the city move towards realizing its vision.

Christopher Sanders expressed is concerns regarding the ordinance stating that establishing a temporary moratorium on any business is disruption of free enterprise.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt 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.

3. Adopt 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) (Introduced 4/14/2026)

Public meeting was held.

The mayor explained the reason for the proposed ordinance.

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

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Council Member Vincent asked that signs advising those visiting the park of the guidelines be placed in the park.

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. Adopt Ordinance 2026-13, an ordinance of the City of Baker, Louisiana, creating and providing for regulation of tire businesses; requiring permits, records, safe storage, and lawful disposal of used and waste tire; establishing enforcement and penalties; and otherwise providing with respect thereto (Vincent) (Introduced 4/14/2026)

Public meeting was held.

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.

Discussion followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt 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.

Recognize Percy Vessell for his dedication to the City of Baker, especially District 2, and always answering the call to serve the community without complaint (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn recognized Percy Vessell for his dedication to the City of Baker, especially District 2, and always answering the call to serve the community without complaint.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. District 3 announcements: District 3 Community Walks will begin on the first Tuesday of each month beginning May 5, 2026, recognition of those to be honored at the Citizen of the Year Banquet on May 11, 2026, the City of Baker Recreation Association is currently accepting new athletes ages 4-15 to play baseball, and/or NFL flag football, the Rotary Club of Baker will be hosting inclusive bowling for students receiving special services on Monday, May 18, 2026, please text (225) 954-3360 for registration details, and Clean Green Neighborhood Alliance Recycle Challenge with Thomasina Joseph – the goal is to educate and empower the city officials, employees and students about recycling correctly (Collins)

Council Member Collins asked Ms. Thomasina Joseph to come forward. Ms. Joseph, Executive Director of Clean Green Neighborhood Alliance Recycle Challenge, provided an overview of her program and its goal to educate and empower city officials, employees, and students about recycling correctly.

Council Member Collins announced District 3 Community Walks will begin on the first Tuesday of each month beginning May 5, 2026. She also announced the Citizen of the Year banquet will be held on May 11, 2026. This year’s honoree is Shanna Claiborne. Council Member Collins announced that the City of Baker Recreation Association is currently accepting new athletes ages 4-15 to play baseball, and/or NFL flag football, and that the Rotary Club of Baker will be hosting inclusive bowling for students receiving special services on Monday, May 18, 2026, please text (225) 954-3360 for registration details.

2. Baton Rouge Black History Hall of Fame for the Lincoln Theare fundraiser “An evening of jazz and blues” Friday, May 15, 2026, at Manship Theater – Shaw Center for the Arts (telephone 225-270-1714 or lbhfhf.org), notification from Fire and Police Departments if events or tragedies in our districts, etc. (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent reiterated the importance of recycling and thanked Ms. Ruby Duhe for her efforts with the citywide cleanup, Love the Boot Day, held on April 18, 2026. He thanked the Baker Fire Department for hosting the event. Council Member Vincent asked that at future city events various receptacles be placed about so that items may be recycled properly. He asked that there be separate trash and recycling receptacles.

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.lbhfhf.org. He asked that the Fire and Police Departments notify council members when events or tragedies occur in their districts, so that when constituents contact them for information or with questions they are able to provide the necessary information. He thanked everyone who helped with Love the Boot Day. He also thanked the mayor and Public Works Department for all they do.

The mayor read an excerpt from a letter he received regarding children under 16 years old riding skateboards on the sidewalks. The person responsible for the letter asked that the children not do so, and called for parental supervision.

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

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.

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 28, 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 28, 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 28, 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 Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 14, 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 April 28, 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 28, 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 28, 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 April 14, 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 April 28, 2026.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council