

**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
June 10, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.**

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

*****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 Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 26, 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

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring June 2026 Flood Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Mayor)

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 June 2026 Alzheimer's and Brain 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 June 2026 Cataract 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. Authorize mayor to execute engagement letter for FY2026 financial audit (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to authorize the mayor to execute engagement letter for FY 2026 financial audit.

Council Member Dunn added with the correction of the findings by the city's CPA.

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 2026-21, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact Article II, Section 6-21 of the City of Baker Code of Ordinances and to provide for other matters relative to the same (Mayor)

The mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to table Ordinance 2026-21.

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 2026-22, an ordinance to amend the operating budget of general fund revenues and expenditures City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Murphy to introduce Ordinance 2026-22.

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 2026-23, an ordinance to adopt the operating budget of special revenue funds revenues and expenditures City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Members Murphy/Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2026-23.

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 2026-24, an ordinance amending Chapter 14, Article IX, Section 14-1006, "Discharging Firearms," to expand prohibited conduct, increase penalties, provide for enhanced enforcement, and otherwise provide with respect thereto (Mayor)

The mayor stated the purpose of this ordinance is to strengthen the existing ordinance.

The question was asked from the floor if the item was available for comment.

The mayor stated it's an introduction and there will be time for comment at the public hearing in two weeks. He said the individual would have three minutes and be able to say what they'd like to say at that time.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to introduce Ordinance 2026-24.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

Council Member Vincent voted yes

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Collins stated she would like to hear the public comment.

Council Member Young voted yes.

Council Member Murphy voted yes.

Tia Fields, 3609 Coolidge, stated she's lived in Baker for 90 days and she deliberately chose to bring her family here for the safety of her children. She said in the 90 days she's lived here; she's received alerts about burglaries and shootings – twice this week.

The mayor said Ms. Field's comments were noted and that the city is trying to do something about it.

Council Member Collins voted yes.

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

1. Adopt Ordinance 2026-14, an ordinance to adopt the operating budget of general fund revenues and expenditures City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 (Mayor) (Introduced 5/12/2026)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2026-14.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

Council Member Vincent stated that despite voting no for the introduction of these ordinances, after having met with Finance Director Mary Sue Stages and the mayor his questions have been answered.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Adopt Ordinance 2026-15, an ordinance to adopt the operating budget of special revenue funds revenues and expenditures City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 (Mayor) (Introduced 5/12/2026)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2026-15.

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 2026-16, an ordinance to adopt the capital budget and capital

program of governmental funds City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 (Mayor) (Introduced 5/12/2026)
Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt Ordinance 2026-16.

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. Adopt Ordinance 2026-17, an ordinance to adopt the budget of utility fund revenues, expenditures and capital improvements City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 (Mayor) (Introduced 5/12/2026)
Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to adopt Ordinance 2026-17.

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. Adopt Ordinance 2026-18, an ordinance to adopt the budget of cemetery fund revenues, expenditures and capital improvements City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 (Mayor) (Introduced 5/12/2026)
Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2026-18.

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.

6. Adopt Ordinance 2026-19, an ordinance to adopt the budget of sewer revenue fund revenues, expenditures and capital improvements City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 (Mayor) (Introduced 5/12/2026)
Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2026-19.

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

The mayor introduced Villavaso & Associates, LLC.

Stephen D. Villavaso gave a presentation on the Baker Main Street Economic Development District, specifically providing an overview of the Baker Main Street Economic Development District corridor analysis study.

Discussion followed.

Administrative Officer Angela Machen provided a brief overview of the grants that the City of Baker has been awarded.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Vincent asked where the proposed fire station on the west side of the city will be located. Ms. Machen stated it will be built near the recently constructed water tower on Groom Road as part of a consolidated plan that includes the water tower, generator, and fire station.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. District 3 announcements: update from CATS on the Lynx program in the City of Baker, registration is still open for City of Baker T-Ball, coaches pitch, softball, and baseball, update on BREC park, ensuring people are registered to vote and are aware of election coming up this month, ensuring people are aware of vote for Baker Fire Department, and Juneteenth celebration June 19, 2026 (Collins)

Council Member Collins gave a report on the LYNX program covering January 1, 2026 to June 4, 2026. She thanked the community for using the resources that the LYNX program provides. She stated the City of Baker Recreation Association has adult programs such as indoor walking, line dancing and pickleball at the facility on Alabama Street. She announced a ribbon cutting ceremony for the baseball field will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at the park on N. Magnolia. Council Member Collins announced that a public meeting is being held next week regarding BREC parks and encouraged everyone to attend. She reminded everyone that there is an election on June 27, 2026. She announced information regarding her proposed Juneteenth celebration is forthcoming. Council Member Collins asked that anyone interested in working with the youth in our community contact her at dcollins@cityofbakerla.com.

2. District 2 announcements (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn announced the annual fishing tournament will be held June 13, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. She stated the ribbon cutting for the baseball field at the park on N. Magnolia will be held that day as well from noon to 1:00 p.m. Council Member Dunn thanked the mayor, the Fire Department, Chief Dunn, Baker Hardware, and the Rotary Club for their support of the event. She thanked everyone who has donated and/or volunteered, saying their participation makes the fishing tournament possible. She asked that those planning to attend register for the event. Council Member Dunn announced that there will be a District 2 meeting on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the facility on Alabama Street. She expressed her concerns regarding rising energy costs, and the importance of reminding older constituents not to panic. She reminded everyone of the importance of voting and asked them to get out and exercise their right to do so. Council Member Dunn stated that the City of Baker has recently experienced violence, but violence is an issue everywhere. She said the city needs to continue to pray, trust in God, and talk to the children, so that they will choose to do something different.

3. State Fair town hall meeting date (if established), fire station location on Groom Road across the railroad tracks (if established), etc. (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent stated that often times the items he brings to council meetings are a result of inquiries made by his constituents. He said it is his understanding that a

date has not been set for a town hall meeting to discuss the relocation of the State Fair. He thanked the mayor and his staff for providing information on where the fire station is to be located on Groom Road. He thanked the mayor and the Public Works Department for assisting him in getting cones so that he can mark areas in need of repair in District 1. He thanked the chief for letting council members know what is going on in real time. He said he is aware that they are looking for new leadership at BREC and will stay tuned for more information. He thanked the mayor for telling him about a fire on Charles Street. He stated, with the help of his church, he assisted the Johnson family with procuring clothing and food following the incident. Council Member Vincent reiterated the importance of voting and pleaded with everyone to learn about the issues and do so.

Council Member Murphy announced the Baton Rouge African American Museum grand opening will be held Friday, June 19, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at 805 St. Louis Street, Baton Rouge.

Council Member Collins provided information about SUN Bucks, a program designed to feed children during the summer break. Those with a child 5 - 18 years old can go online and apply for the program which will provide a one-time payment of \$120.00 for each eligible school-aged child.

Council Member Murphy stated that in light of recent events in the city, the time has come for unification and prayer. He reminded people that if they see something, say something. He said that we can hold the schools, the police department and others accountable, but people must be accountable for what goes on in their homes as well.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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 June 10, 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
June 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 June 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 May 26, 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 Murphy/Vincent to adjourn.

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 June 10, 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
June 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 June 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 May 26, 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.

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 June 10, 2026.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council