

**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 23, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on June 23, 2026, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Dr. Charles Vincent
Robert Young

ABSENT

Mayor Darnell Waites

CALL TO ORDER – Council Member Murphy presided.
The invocation was given by Council Member Collins.
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 June 10, 2026.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

Council Member Vincent recounted how he and his church Greater New Guide Baptist came to be involved with the Johnson family and spearheaded the effort to see the family returned to their home.

1. Recognize Pastor Mark Thomas and the Greater New Guide Baptist Church Deacon Board for aiding the Johnson family following a fire at their home on Charles Street (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent recognized Pastor Mark Thomas and the Greater New Guide Baptist Church Deacon Board for aiding the Johnson family following a fire at their home on Charles Street.

2. Recognize Betty Cade and the Greater New Guide Baptist Church Clothes Closet for aiding the Johnson family following a fire at their home on Charles Street (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent recognized Betty Cade and the Greater New Guide Baptist Church Clothes Closet for aiding the Johnson family following a fire at their home on Charles Street.

3. Recognize Darrell Moses and the Greater New Guide Baptist Church Food Pantry for aiding the Johnson family following a fire at their home on Charles Street (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent recognized Darrell Moses and the Greater New Guide Baptist

Church Food Pantry for aiding the Johnson family following a fire at their home on Charles Street.

Council Member Vincent stated that the members of his church being recognized tonight were unable to attend because they are attending bible study, as well as hosting Vacation Bible School, which began this evening, at Greater New Guide Baptist Church.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring June 2026 National Safety 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.

Council Member Murphy 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 Scoliosis 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 Member Dunn to accept the proclamation.

Council Member Murphy 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

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Adopt 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) (Introduced 6/10/2026)

Public meeting was held.

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

Council Member Murphy 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 2026-23, 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) (Introduced 6/10/2026)

Public meeting was held.

Council Member Vincent asked that Finance Director Mary Sue Stages briefly explain the special revenue funds cited in the proposed ordinance.

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages provided an overview of the special revenue funds included in Ordinance 2026-23.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt Ordinance 2026-23.

Council Member Murphy called for public comments or questions.

Barbara King, 3512 Charry Drive, asked if the budget for the special revenue funds will help pay for flood damage incurred at her home due to the rain event last week.

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages stated that the simple answer to that question is no, the budget being amended in this ordinance will not address such damage. She did say that a portion of the funds spent in the street fund does cover drainage, so that is part of their purpose, but covering damage as described by Ms. King was not in this budget.

Ms. King was advised to speak with the mayor's office regarding her questions and concerns.

Council Member Murphy 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 2026-24, 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) (Introduced 6/10/2026)

Public meeting was held.

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

Council Member Murphy called for public comments or questions.

Discussion regarding current penalties, the proposed increased penalties, as well as the city's objective in strengthening the ordinance was held.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. District 3 announcements (Collins)

Council Member Collins reminded everyone that Saturday is an election day and encouraged them to vote. She asked everyone to take advantage of the Baker Fresh Market this coming Saturday at the corner of Plank Road and Petit Road and recognized Representative Barbara Carpenter for her part in making the market possible. She announced that former city council member Carlon Simpson passed away and said visitation will be Wednesday, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Charlet Funeral Home and from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Thursday at St. Isidore. The funeral will follow at 10:00 a.m. Council Member Collins announced food boxes will be given out to children this Saturday as part of her Nourish to Flourish program in partnership with the Diontrety Claiborne Stop the Violence Organization. Children must be Baker residents to receive a box. She also announced a clothing closet has been created at New Beginnings Baptist Fellowship Church. On the fourth Sunday of every month the closet will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She also announced that New Beginnings Baptist Fellowship Church has committed to providing free hot meals on the fourth Saturday of each month. Council Member Collins asked that other churches, clubs and organizations get involved so that every Saturday in Baker hot meals are available to those in need. She stated she also plans to provide breakfast and lunch for children in the community on Tuesdays and Thursdays in July.

2. District 2 announcements (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn thanked everyone who helped to make the third annual fishing tournament a success. She thanked Baker Hardware for providing the bait used at the tournament. She thanked Coca-Cola, the Pilot Club, the City of Baker, the mayor, committee members, Chief Pease, the police department, David, the Rotary Club, and Guaranty Bank for their participation and support. Council Member Dunn said the open house and grand reopening of the Baton Rouge African American Museum located at 805 St. Louis Street was beautiful and congratulated Administrative Officer Angela Machen on the family's success.

3. District 1 announcements: cleaning ditches and canals, etc.

Council Member Vincent provided details of the arrangements for former council member Carlon Simpson. He stated he also attended the grand reopening of the Baton Rouge African American Museum and the visit brought back memories. Council Member Vincent said he has received numerous calls asking if the city is cleaning the ditches and canals. He said he knows that the city is working diligently to keep the ditches and canals throughout the city flowing as they should. He asked if there was blockage near the culverts recently installed on Lavey Lane, as there was flooding in areas that have never before been inundated to the extent they experienced last week. He reiterated that he is always available to help, they need only call.

Council Member Young stated that residents are using the ditches and canals as dump sites. He asked that everyone refrain from dumping trash and/or debris in city's ditches and canals, as this adversely affects drainage throughout the city. He said the city is doing all it can to keep the ditches and canals clean, but residents must assist in these efforts. He agreed with Council Member Dunn, saying the annual fishing tournament is getting better and better and the fish are getting bigger and bigger!

Council Member Dunn said it is imperative that residents not blow grass and/or debris into culverts, canals, or ditches. She asked that people advise their yard men to refrain from doing so as well. She stated helping to maintain proper drainage throughout the city is everyone's responsibility. She said we have to work with each other and continue to pray.

Council Member Vincent reiterated the importance of working together to maintain proper drainage throughout the city.

Council Member Collins announced that residents whose homes have been affected by flooding can go to www.damage.la.gov and submit photos along with their address and story, as they are trying to apply for FEMA funding for our community.

Discussion regarding servitudes and who is responsible for their upkeep was held.

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.

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 23, 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 23, 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 23, 2026, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS

Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Dr. Charles Vincent
Robert Young

ABSENT

Darnell Waites

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Murphy presided.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 10, 2026.

Commissioner Murphy called for public comments or questions.

Commissioner Vincent asked if the city had stable leadership at the cemetery, as residents have reported issues with being able to contact anyone at the office. He stated he would tell people to continue trying to make contact.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS

1. Monthly Business Report
2. Other Reports
3. Items Requiring Action

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Murphy.

**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 23, 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 23, 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 23, 2026, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Dr. Charles Vincent
Robert Young

ABSENT

Darnell Waites

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Murphy presided.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 10, 2026.

Commissioner Murphy called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Waites

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

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 Dunn, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to adjourn.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Waites

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by 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 Board of Commissioners of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on June 23, 2026.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council