

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

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on July 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 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 Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 23, 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. Resolution adopting the Louisiana compliance questionnaire for the year ending June 30, 2026 (Mayor)
The resolution was read by Aneatra Boykin.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to adopt the resolution.

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. Resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the result of the special election held in the City of Baker, State of Louisiana (the “*City*”), on Saturday, June 27, 2026, to authorize the levy and collection of a ten (10) mill ad valorem tax for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2027 and ending with the year 2036, for the purpose of providing funds for salaries for third engine personnel and increasing salaries and benefits for all employees of the Fire Department of the City who are members of the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service System; and further providing for other matters in connection therewith (Mayor)

The title of the resolution was read by Aneatra Boykin.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

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

The mayor moved to item number two under New Business, introduction of Ordinance 2026-25.

The title of the ordinance was read by Aneatra Boykin.

Discussion regarding the fact that the resolution and the ordinance are two completely different/separate items, as well as how to proceed, was held.

The mayor went back to the resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Murphy to adopt the resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the result of the special election.

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. Resolution indicating the intention of the City of Baker, State of Louisiana, to approve the two (2) year appointment of Darnell Waites as a director to the board of the Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority (the “*Authority*”) as provided by Chapter 10-D of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (Mayor)

The resolution was read by Mayor Waites.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to adopt the resolution.

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. Proclamation declaring July 2026 as Park and Recreation Month in the City of Baker (Mayor)

The proclamation was read by Mayor Waites.

Council Member Vincent acknowledged that discussion regarding the State Fair being brought to the City of Baker has not been initiated but stated that constituents have already begun voicing their concerns, and these are concerns he shares. He asked for reassurance that prior to any decisions being made regarding this issue, public meetings will be held that allow for input from residents.

The mayor stated there have been no conversations regarding this issue, but should the need arise, all relevant information will be provided to residents.

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.

5. Proclamation declaring July 2026 Cord Blood 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.

6. Proclamation declaring July 2026 Healthy Vision 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. Proces Verbal – City of Baker 2026 election (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to verify the Proces Verbal and approve the proof of publication.

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 2026-25, an Ordinance directing the levy and collection of an ad valorem tax of ten (10) mills on the dollar of assessed valuation of all property subject to taxation within the geographic boundaries of the City of Baker, State of Louisiana, for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2027 and ending with the year 2036, for the purpose of providing funds for salaries for third engine personnel and increasing salaries and benefits for all employees of the Fire Department of the City who are members of the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service System (Mayor)

The title of the ordinance was read by Aneatra Boykin.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Johnny McQuarter, 4206 Melban, asked where the new fire station will be located.

The mayor stated it will be located across the tracks on Groom Road.

Mr. McQuarter stated a new fire station was not on the ballot, that the ballot for the special election was unclear.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Members Dunn/Young to introduce Ordinance 2026-25.

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. Designation of Council President and Vice President for the Baker City Council for July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 (Dunn)

It was announced that Council Member Dunn will be Council President and Council Member Collins will be Council Vice President for July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

PUBLIC MEETING

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Angela Machen, Administrative Officer, gave a presentation on the City of Baker’s blight initiative, as well as a detailed explanation of Code Enforcement’s process. Keba Coleman, Blight Coordinator, provided an overview of activity from 2025 to date. To contact Code Enforcement, please call (225) 778-0300.

Angela Machen, Administrative Officer, provided an overview of the City of Baker’s violence prevention plan for community safety and stabilization. Ms. Machen stated the City of Baker has partnered with the Diontrety Claiborne Stop the Violence Organization, The Pivot Project, Metro Councilman Anthony Kenney, Baker Helix Community Schools, and the Baker Police Department in their efforts to implement said plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. District 3 announcements (Collins)

Council Member Collins announced the Baker Area Sports Association is holding their End of Summer Slam on Saturday, July 18, 2026, at Jefferson Street Park. She announced the City of Baker Chamber of Commerce is hosting its back-to-school giveaway on Saturday, July 25, 2026, at the Municipal Center. She said the Chamber of Commerce has a Wish List on Amazon and encouraged everyone so inclined to donate to this worthwhile cause. Council Member Collins stated she will host her District 3 Let's Take a Walk on July 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. She reminded everyone that as part of the Nourish to Flourish program, in partnership with the Diontreya Claiborne Stop the Violence Organization, New Beginnings Baptist Fellowship Church has committed to providing free hot meals on the fourth Saturday of each month from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She also announced a clothing boutique has been opened at the church, so clothing items are available to those in need. She thanked Pastor McArthur Greensberry for all he and his congregation have done. Council Member Collins asked that other churches, clubs and organizations get involved so that every Saturday in Baker hot meals are available to those who are hungry.

2. District 2 announcements (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn announced there will be a community softball game on Saturday, August 15, 2026, at the BREC park on Chamberlain Avenue from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. She recognized the Baker school system as being one of the top growing systems in the state. Council Member Dunn asked that everyone support the back-to-school giveaway being hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

3. District 1 announcements: back to school events, ditch cleanout throughout the city, and Lavey Lane culverts, etc. (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent stated he will host his annual back-to-school giveaway on Saturday, July 18, 2026, throughout District 1, as well as supporting the Chamber of Commerce's event on Saturday July 25, 2026. He encouraged everyone to support their efforts, and those of all organizations hosting back-to-school giveaways. Council Member Vincent stated his constituents consistently express their concerns regarding ditch cleanout throughout the city, and that he reassures them the city is doing all it can to keep these areas cut, clean, and free of debris. He asked that the city help with the cracked sidewalks in Parkwood Terrace subdivision. He reminded everyone that every third Saturday is his Friendly Neighbor Keeper initiative where residents are encouraged to pick up trash in their yards, their neighbors' yards, and their neighborhoods. Council Member Vincent said he has spoken with DOTD regarding the culverts on Lavey Lane at the exit of Parkwood Terrace due to residents' concerns following the recent high-water event in the subdivision.

Council Member Murphy thanked his colleagues for all their help and support throughout his tenure as Council President. He stated Council President Dunn has his full support and thanked his colleagues for a wonderful year.

Council Member Young told Fire Chief Pease he wants his softball team to beat the police department's team, so that they can face his team in the championship game at the community event being held on August 15, 2026.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

1. Approve demolition of property at 1008 Epperson (Mayor)
The motion was made by Council Member Collins, seconded by Council Member Murphy to demolish the property at 1008 Epperson Street.

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.

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 Vincent, 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 July 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
July 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 July 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 June 23, 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.

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 July 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
July 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 July 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 Commissioner Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 23, 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/Vincent 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 July 14, 2026.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council