

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

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on July 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 Dunn, seconded by Council Member Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 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.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to move item number three up on the agenda to number one under Resolutions and Proclamations.

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 recognizing and celebrating Dr. Barbra Thomas-Parker (Dunn)*

The proclamation was read by Aneatra Boykin.

Council Member Dunn commended Dr. Thomas-Parker and presented her with a token of her appreciation and support.

2. Resolution to promote dignified discourse and productive communication
(Mayor)

The resolution was read by Aneatra Boykin.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

The motion was made by Council Member Collins, 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.

3. Proclamation declaring July 25, 2026, Arts and Health Day in the City of Baker
(Mayor)

The proclamation was read by Aneatra Boykin.

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

4. Proclamation declaring July 2026 Juvenile Arthritis 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.

5. Proclamation declaring July 2026 National Minority Mental 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 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.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Entergy’s Beat the Heat Grant Presentation (Mayor)

Desiree Harris, Entergy’s Customer Service Manager, announced that through Entergy’s “Beat the Heat” program each council member will receive fans to distribute in their district. Entergy's "Beat the Heat" program helps vulnerable customers stay cool and manage energy bills during the summer months by providing bill payment assistance, fans, energy efficiency kits, and resources from community partners. The program also connects customers with Single Stop, a free service that helps them access financial assistance and other support.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Adopt 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) (Introduced 7/14/2026)

Public meeting was held.

The title of the ordinance 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 Young to adopt 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The mayor stated that the city worked on the gravel portion of the parking lot at Baker High School and the area is much improved.

The mayor clarified that the newly constructed neighborhood Sunshine Gardens, is in fact, within the city limits of the City of Baker.

The mayor reported that the state will begin construction on a new prison facility on Groom Road.

Council Member Young asked that discussion be initiated regarding the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Groom Road and Highway 964.

Regarding the City of Baker school system, the mayor stated that the goal is to have everyone who attends a Baker school in K-8, eventually attend Baker High School.

The mayor announced the city will begin work on the walking track soon.

The mayor stated the construction work on Groom Road will be completed in 2027.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. District 3 announcements (Collins)

Council Member Collins stated the mayor and council will be attending the LMA convention the first week of August, and that the mayor will be inducted as President at that time. She announced the Baker Jr. Buffs are now enrolling those interested in playing football or cheering for this upcoming season. She announced District 3 is hosting a “Mental Health and Mingle” workshop on Sunday, August 19, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Jefferson Street Park. Dinner will be provided free of charge.

2. District 2 announcements (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn congratulated the mayor on being President of LMA. She 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 asked that everyone come out and support this community event.

3. District 1 announcements: thanks to mayor and Public Works Department for picking up litter before cutting grass and thanks for Lavey Lane and Thomas Road rights-of-way, speed bumps on Morvant possibilities, etc. (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent thanked everyone who participated in the back-to-school giveaways. He thanked the mayor and Public Works Department for picking up the litter along the Lavey Lane and Thomas Road rights-of-ways before cutting the grass in these areas. He also thanked everyone who participates in his Friendly Neighbor Keeper initiative on the third Saturday of every month. He stated a constituent has contacted him regarding speed bumps on Morvant.

A brief discussion regarding the process for installing speed bumps was held.

Council Member Vincent asked for points of clarification regarding the businesses that were approved at the last Planning and Zoning meeting. Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Willie Williams answered Council Member Vincent’s questions. Council Member Vincent asked the mayor if the city can do anything about the sidewalks in his subdivision. The mayor stated the only way the city will become involved with sidewalks is if the situation is a safety issue.

Council Member Young stated there is a possibility of a celebratory event taking place once everyone returns from the LMA convention in honor of the mayor being LMA President.

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 Collins to adjourn.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

The meeting was adjourned.

**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 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
July 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 July 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 Commissioners Dunn/Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 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 Commissioners Collins/Dunn 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 July 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
July 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 July 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 Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 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 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 28, 2026.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council