

**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
August 25, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on August 25, 2026, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

MAYOR
Darnell Waites

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Robert Young

ABSENT
Dr. Charles Vincent

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Waites presided.
The invocation was given by Council Member Murphy.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Young.

*****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 August 11, 2026.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.
YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Vincent
ABSTAIN: None
The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Introduce Dr. Erica Palin of Lane Baker Clinic (Mayor)
The mayor introduced Dr. Erica Palin who will be working at the Lane Baker Clinic on Groom Road. Dr. Palin provided information on her background and experience as well as an overview of the services to be provided once the clinic has opened.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2026-28, an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Baker by adding a new article to Chapter 27, Zoning, to establish the Baker Commercial Corridor Overlay Zoning District (CCO); providing for purpose, applicability, boundaries, development plan review, prohibited uses, lot and bulk standards, design standards, landscape and buffer requirements, additional design review standards, administration, severability, and an effective

date (Mayor)

The mayor read a portion of the title of the ordinance and provided a brief synopsis as well.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Discussion regarding the proposed ordinance was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Collins, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2026-28.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

The mayor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting so that the Public Hearing could be called to order.

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

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing was called to order by Mayor Waites.

The mayor stated they would conduct a public hearing to consider, discuss and review setting forth the adjusted millage rates, and roll forward to millage rates not exceeding the maximum authorized rates.

CALL TO ORDER

1. Invocation
2. Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC HEARING

3. Conduct a Public Hearing to consider, discuss and review setting forth the adjusted millage rates, and roll forward to millage rates not exceeding the maximum authorized rates

Anetra Boykin read the title of the ordinance.

The mayor called for public comments or questions three times.

4. Public Comment

There were no public comments or questions.

ADJOURN

5. Adjourn Public Hearing

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

The public hearing was adjourned.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Adopt Ordinance 2026-26, an ordinance to set forth and designate the adjusted millage rate (Mayor) (Introduced 8/11/2026)

The mayor read the title of the ordinance.

Anetra Boykin read a portion of the ordinance.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt Ordinance 2026-27.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt Ordinance 2026-26.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Adopt Ordinance 2026-27, an ordinance to set forth and designate the adjusted millage rate and roll forward to millage rate not exceeding the maximum authorized rate (Mayor) (Introduced 8/11/2026)

Anetra Boykin read a portion of the ordinance.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Anetra Boykin read Section 1 of the proposed ordinance.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Anetra Boykin stated they were still in the public hearing.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to adjourn the public hearing/meeting.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

The mayor stated they needed to adopt Ordinance 2026-27.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2026-27.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Administrative Officer Angela Machen announced that Goodwill now has an office in the City of Baker on Highway 19 at Charlie's Place. She stated this is a result of the mayor's efforts to have more services readily available to the citizens of Baker. She introduced Scottie LeBlanc, Vice President of Mission Services at Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Louisiana, and Jodee Daroca, President and CEO at Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Louisiana, who provided an overview of the organization's long-term goals for the area, as well as services being provided to the Baker community.

The mayor recognized President of the City Council Rochelle Dunn, as well as outgoing President Council Member Cedric Murphy.

The mayor announced DEMCO lighting upgrades continue and they plan to begin the next phase by the end of the week. The upcoming phase will see upgrades completed in council District 3.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. District 2 announcements (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn thanked everyone who helped make the "Batter Up, Baker" community softball game held Saturday, August 15, 2026, a tremendous success. She thanked all the sponsors, vendors, participants, as well as everyone who came out and supported the event.

Council Member Collins stated District 3 hosted the "Mental Health and Mingle" workshop on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at Jefferson Street Park and it was an amazing experience. She said they plan to make it a monthly event that provides an opportunity for people to share a meal and talk around a communal table. Mental health counselors participated in the event. Council Member Collins thanked everyone who worked to ensure the event was successful. She commended the "Hope in our Midst" program held recently aimed at listening to residents in an attempt to stop violence in the community. She stated the Elvin Howard, Sr. Pancreatic Cancer Advocacy Foundation held a symposium and encouraged everyone to visit their social media for more information on pancreatic cancer.

Council Member Young asked that people be mindful when scheduling and if at all possible avoid scheduling events for the same time. He stated he attended the symposium hosted by the Elvin Howard, Sr. Pancreatic Cancer Advocacy Foundation, an organization he has faithfully supported for years. Council Member Young said he plans to begin his birthday celebrations this weekend while watching the Cowboys beat the Saints.

Council Member Murphy thanked the mayor and Public Works for completing projects in Chaleur subdivision and Buffwood. He said his constituents are extremely happy.

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 Murphy to adjourn.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

**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 August 25, 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
August 25, 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 August 25, 2026, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS

Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Darnell Waites
Robert Young

ABSENT

Dr. Charles Vincent

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 August 11, 2026.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS

1. Monthly Business Report

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages submitted a financial report.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioners Collins/Murphy to accept the financial report.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

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 Murphy to adjourn.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

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 for the Norman E. "Pete" Heine Memorial Gardens held on August 25, 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
August 25, 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 August 25, 2026, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Darnell Waites
Robert Young

ABSENT

Dr. Charles Vincent

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 August 11, 2026.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS

1. Monthly Business Report

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages submitted a financial report.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to accept the financial report.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

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.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vincent

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 August 25, 2026.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council