

Baker Main Street Economic Development District Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, August 3, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: In-person @ Baker Fire Station (3701 Groom Rd., Baker, LA 70714)
Virtually @ <https://meet.google.com/ceh-uydm-qtp>

1. Call to Order, Prayer, and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Board President Cedric Murphy, the prayer was led by Michell Woods and Willie Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Board Member	Role	Present
Cedric Murphy	President	Yes
Willie Williams	Treasurer	Yes
Michel Woods	Member	Yes
Myra Victor-Harris	Member	Yes
Shaelisa Bradley-Hunt	Vice President	Yes
Kermit Johnson IV	Secretary	No
Adrienne Conrad	Member	No

Quorum confirmed.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from March and May meetings were presented and approved unanimously.

- **Motion By:** Michel Woods
- **Seconded By:** Shaelisa Bradley-Hunt
- **Result:** Motion carried unanimously

4. Update and Next Steps Regarding Voters Registered within the EDD

The Registrar of Voters has declined to purge the 15 individuals registered within the EDD boundaries from the rolls. This blocks the enactment of the proposed 1% sales tax, and the process the Registrar outlined to resolve this issue would create delays of at least two election cycles. Need to decide with the City regarding holding an election for the 15 voters, or pursuing legal remedies. In the near term, we will begin pursuing grant funding, as well as discussing recurring revenues from the City.

5. Update on the Adoption of the Overlay District Ordinance

Dante Bidwell announced that the local planning commission has issued a favorable recommendation for the overlay district in July. The recommendation has been sent to the city attorney to draft a formal ordinance for consideration at upcoming city council meetings. Planning for a September 8 adoption.

6. Planning for Next Public Meeting

Discussion was held regarding scheduling the next public meeting for mid-September or October to update the community and collect feedback. Michel Woods proposed personally delivering physical invitations to businesses on Highway 19 (Main St.). The board agreed to divide this list of businesses to ensure personalized contact. Cedric Murphy suggested aligning the public meeting with upcoming Chamber events (e.g., the annual pickleball event and banquet) to build momentum and drive recruitment. Dante Bidwell emphasized the need to coordinate dates with the Mayor's Office to avoid scheduling conflicts with major local events, such as Buffalo Fest. Myra will send out a scheduling poll to identify the best dates.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5pm.

- **Motion By:** Willie Williams
- **Seconded By:** Cedric Murphy
- **Result:** Motion carried unanimously