

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL**

**Dial In: 774-220-4000**

**PIN: 22537**

**November 24, 2020**

**6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on November 24, 2020, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

**MAYOR**

Darnell Waites

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Glenda Bryant

Rochelle Dunn

Brenda G. Jackson

Dr. Charles Vincent

Robert Young

**CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Waites presided.

The invocation was given by Council Member Vincent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Attorney Fabre.

**DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 10, 2020.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Vincent stated he would like to honor Linda Thomas-Greenfield, a native of Baker, for her achievements, especially as nominee for UN Ambassador. He said he would like to discuss honoring Ms. Thomas-Greenfield further under Non-Agenda Items.

**RECOGNITIONS**

**PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Introduce Ordinance 2020-20, an ordinance to amend the operating budget of general fund revenues and expenditures City of Baker, Louisiana fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 (Mayor)

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages provided an overview of the ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2020-20.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2020-21, an ordinance to amend the operating budget of special revenue funds revenues and expenditures City of Baker, Louisiana fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 (Mayor)

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages provided an overview of the ordinance.

Discussion regarding funds to be received from the grant, the match required by the City to receive grant funds and the projects slated for completion prior to the end of the fiscal year was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2020-21.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Schedule work session to discuss Lavey Lane road transfer (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to schedule a work session to discuss Lavey Lane road transfer and food trucks in the City of Baker on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Continue discussion on housing in the City of Baker – landlords and tenants and adding homeowners (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant said this initiative is about quality and affordable housing for everyone in the City of Baker. She said she would like to add homeowners to the discussion, as they have responsibilities as residents of the City of Baker as well. Council Member Bryant stated mold is one of the threats to a tenant's safe environment following a flood. She also said asbestos is a concern in older homes. Council Member Bryant advised prospective buyers and/or renters to check for faulty sewer lines, as this could lead to unforeseen expenses and severely affect quality of life. She said that as we get closer to the end of the year, many people are facing eviction, and evictions result in landlords placing abandoned items on the curb. This causes problems, beyond being an eyesore, for the community. Council Member Bryant stated she welcomes her colleagues' input and participation in this ongoing discussion.

5. Discuss enhancing Section 20-13 by placing a fine on violators of the litter ordinance (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent said he is disappointed when businesses do not keep their property clean. He would like the City to establish a fine for businesses that fail to comply with the litter ordinance. City Attorney Fabre stated the current ordinance addresses everything and it is a question of enforcement at this point.

Discussion regarding the best method of enforcing the current ordinance followed.

Council Member Young initiated discussion regarding responsibility for removal of construction debris and tree work debris in the City of Baker.

6. Schedule work session to discuss food trucks in the City of Baker (Young)

Council Member Young initiated discussion regarding food trucks in the City of Baker. He stated he is concerned with regulating food trucks if they are going to be allowed, as no regulation will result in the situation turning into a circus. He feels if food trucks are to be allowed, they must be regulated.

Council Member Dunn said she is not opposed to food trucks. She agreed with Council Member Young that they must be regulated.

Council Member Bryant suggested food trucks be given a designated area in the City in which to operate. She said this would help the City better control licensing and litter issues.

## **PUBLIC MEETING**

### **RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Resolution – #KeepBakerBeautiful (Mayor)  
City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Proclamation declaring November 2020 Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent introduced and welcomed Elvin Howard, Sr. Pancreatic Cancer Advocacy Foundation representative Veronica Howard Sizer.

Veronica Howard Sizer gave an informational presentation on the Elvin Howard, Sr. Pancreatic Cancer Advocacy Foundation (PCAF). The Elvin Howard, Sr. PCAF can be found on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and at [www.elvinhowardsrpcf.org](http://www.elvinhowardsrpcf.org). Ms. Sizer asked for everyone's support as they continue to raise awareness and help pancreatic cancer patients and their families as they go through this horrible disease.

Council Member Vincent thanked Ms. Sizer for the wonderful presentation and pledged his support to the Elvin Howard, Sr. PCAF.

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Proclamation declaring every third Saturday Clean Up – Friendly Neighbor Keeper Day in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent stated his Friendly Neighbor Keeper initiative was begun on May 10, 2016 and is in keeping with the City of Baker's newly announced #KeepBakerBeautiful campaign. He is asking that every third Saturday be Clean Up – Friendly Neighbor Keeper Day in the City of Baker.

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

## **BIDS AND PROPOSALS**

## **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**CONDEMNATIONS**

1. 4742 Groom Road (Mayor)  
No action was taken on this agenda item.
  
2. 1556 Alabama (Mayor)  
No action was taken on this agenda item.
  
3. 1832 Florida (Mayor)  
No action was taken on this agenda item.
  
4. 3215 Monroe (Mayor)  
No action was taken on this agenda item.
  
5. 1916 Florida (Mayor)  
No action was taken on this agenda item.

**ANNEXATIONS**

**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

**NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Monique Butler, 1012 Sherron, expressed her concerns regarding food trucks in the City of Baker. It is her opinion that they are an eyesore and should not be allowed. Ms. Butler stated she was born and raised in Baker, and the City has never looked like this.

Mary Gaines, 1850 Florida, asked the Council to give her until April 2021 to complete the renovation of her property.

Council Member Young questioned Ms. Gaines about the pictures of the homes she forwarded to him. Ms. Gaines stated the homes were modular or prefab homes she was considering placing on the property. She said the quotes she has received from various contractors to remodel the house have been really high.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Dunn suggested Ms. Gaines contact the City of Baker Inspection Department before moving forward and purchasing a modular home.

Council Member Jackson said she would like to see the pictures Ms. Gaines sent to Council Member Young before making any decisions. She suggested Ms. Gaines return on December 8, 2020. This would give the council an opportunity to see the pictures and research the matter further.

Sandra, Meadows of Chaleur, asked if something could be done about the shrubbery in front of the Chevron station. She said the shrubbery blocks the view of oncoming traffic which has resulted in an extremely dangerous situation.

Council Member Vincent said he wants to honor potential UN Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, a Baker native, who grew up in the Leland College subdivision. He said he wanted to let the general public know how very proud the City is of Ms. Greenfield. Council Member Vincent said she was a student of his and they have been great friends for over forty years. Council Member Vincent said he wants Baker to be

first in line, that he wants to be first in line, behind her family, to say how proud we are of her and to honor her myriad achievements. He thanked the Mayor for having the grass cut and ditches cleaned throughout the City. Council Member Vincent wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, saying be safe and be blessed.

Council Member Dunn wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Bryant asked the Mayor if the CARES Act had any programs to assist renters, homeowners, and landlords. The Mayor said he would investigate that and forward any relevant information. Council Member Bryant wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Young wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Jackson told everyone to be safe, stay vigilant and enjoy the holidays.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

The Mayor announced the state is back in Phase 2, Governor Edwards made the announcement this afternoon. The Mayor said the City will issue a statement tomorrow. He urged everyone to continue wearing masks, wash their hands and practice social distancing. He reminded everyone that now is not the time to get complacent, we must remain vigilant.

Willie Williams announced a celebration honoring Johnny Jones will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2020 on the Southern University campus.

**ADJOURN**

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to adjourn.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, 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 November 24, 2020.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HILLCREST MEMORIAL GARDENS  
CITY OF BAKER  
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL**

**Dial In: 774-220-4000**

**PIN: 22537**

**November 24, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, sitting as the Board of Commissioners for Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, met in regular session on November 24, 2020, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

**COMMISSIONERS**

Glenda Bryant

Rochelle Dunn

Brenda G. Jackson

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 November 10, 2020.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, 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 Dunn, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to adjourn.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, 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 Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on November 24, 2020.

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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  
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL  
Dial In: 774-220-4000  
PIN: 22537  
November 24, 2020**

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 November 24, 2020, with the following members attending:

**COMMISSIONERS**

Glenda Bryant  
Rochelle Dunn  
Brenda G. Jackson  
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 Vincent seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 10, 2020.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, 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 Dunn, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to adjourn.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, 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 November 24, 2020.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council