

**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

December 15, 2020

6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on December 15, 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 Bryant.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Dunn.

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 December 8, 2020.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

NEW BUSINESS

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

Council Member Bryant said she is striving to improve living standards for the citizens of Baker. She stated the City is currently out of smoke detectors and asked the Mayor to look into the program administered by the Office of the State Fire Marshal that provided residents with these devices in the past. Council Member Bryant said with the change in the weather, it is important for everyone to be mindful of safety guidelines when warming themselves this winter. She said people should be very careful when using space heaters and fireplaces in their homes.

PUBLIC MEETING

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution – Lavey Lane road transfer (Mayor)

Council Member Jackson expressed her concerns regarding the wording in certain sections of the resolution. She asked that where the term City Council appears, it be changed to City of Baker.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson to change the resolution by omitting the term City Council and replacing it with City of Baker in certain sections of the

resolution before adoption.

This change should be made to the following:

The first page – the first sentence
Third paragraph on page 1
Second page – first paragraph
Second page – second paragraph

Council Member Dunn asked that this change be made in the second, third and fourth paragraphs on the second page as well.

Council Member Jackson's motion to change the resolution by omitting the term City Council and replacing it with City of Baker in certain sections of the resolution before adoption was seconded by Council Member Vincent.

City Attorney Fabre stated the term City Council cannot be omitted from the third and fourth paragraphs on the second page of the resolution or from the certification at the bottom of page two. He said it's a contextual thing.

Council Member Bryant questioned the deadline for the Lavey Lane road transfer. She asked if the State would be willing to consider completing this transaction at a later date. The Mayor responded the deadline was established by the State.

Council Member Bryant asked when the subdivision being built on Lavey Lane would be completed. The Mayor said he hopes it will be finished in May or June.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt the resolution as read by City Attorney Fabre.

YEAS: Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Bryant

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

Council Member Bryant qualified her vote. She stated, due to the state of our economy at this time, with COIVD, and it being approximately a year before the new normal will be established, to be responsible for the upkeep of the road and bridge and drainage, this expense is something that could possibly cause hardship for the City, and for that reason she voted no.

2. Proclamation declaring the week of December 26, 2020 – January 1, 2021 as Celebration of Kwanzaa Week in Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent provided an overview of Kwanzaa.

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.

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.

The Mayor said work has been completed at two of the properties approved for demolition by the Council.

Council Member Bryant asked that the houses on Biscayne that have completed condemnation reports be added to the condemnation list.

Mrs. Gaines asked that she be given until April 2021 to complete the proposed renovation work at 1850 Florida.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Vincent to give Mrs. Gaines, 1850 Florida, until April of 2021 to complete the renovation work at 1850 Florida.

Council Member Vincent stated the Council will monitor the progress and will grant additional time if the need arises.

Council Member Dunn suggested giving Mrs. Gaines six months to complete the project.

Council Member Young said he would like to see Mrs. Gaines move forward with the original completion date of April 2021. He said if extra time is needed, the Council can address the situation at that time.

Council Member Vincent reiterated that the Council has historically assisted residents in these situations. He said as long as progress is being made on the proposed project, the City and City Council have worked to accommodate citizens and their requests for additional time.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

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 – They are waiting on COVID to clear up, so they can start meeting again.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor and Council for taking a photo with newly elected District Judge Christopher Dassau. He asked City Attorney Fabre about the information regarding food trucks, he's not received anything at this point. City Attorney Fabre stated he forwarded the City of Baton Rouge's ordinance to the Mayor via email. Council Member Vincent reminded everyone that this coming Saturday is the third Saturday of the month and is Clean Up - Friendly Neighbor Keeper Day and asked them to do their part. He wished everyone a merry, safe, and happy Christmas and a great New Year. He asked that everyone be safe, be blessed and be well.

Council Member Dunn asked if BDG tree cutters are doing work for the City. They are not. She stated she would like the information regarding food trucks as well. Council Member Dunn announced the Pilot Club will be distributing boxes in the City Hall parking lot on Friday, December 18, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. She wished everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. She asked everyone to stay safe, wear your mask, wash your hands, and continue to practice social distancing.

Council Member Bryant announced that due to COVID, she is postponing her annual give-away. However, she will be at City Hall on Friday, December 18, 2020 along with the Pilot Club and will be giving out a small token of her appreciation. Council Member Bryant requested loaner computers for City Council use. She asked the Mayor to include reminders for the citizens of Baker about picking up trash, garbage can placement, garbage pick-up days, etc. in his MeTV spots. She said new residents do not have this information and providing it during the MeTV sessions will help keep everyone up to date and relay expectations. Council Member Bryant wished everyone a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Council Member Young warned everyone about the recent scam involving text messages. He said to be extremely careful with texts referencing a package from FedEx. Do not open these messages, delete them. Council Member Young wished everyone happy holidays.

Council Member Jackson wished everyone a safe and joyous ending and a prosperous start to 2021 and every year thereafter.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor stated the City is having some rough times with COVID. Several employees have tested positive. He said we need to continue to stay safe – wear masks, wash hands and continue to practice social distancing.

The Mayor announced the drive-thru window in Utility Billing will be closed until Monday. Calls and emails will continue to be answered. He said anyone who can work from home, will be working from home.

The Mayor asked everyone to continue to pray for those affected by the virus.

Council Member Bryant asked if there were going to be any other giveaways, beside Mingle & Jingle, in the City of Baker this holiday season.

Council Member Dunn stated BREC was hosting a give-away at Greenwood Park for the Christmas holiday.

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 December 15, 2020.

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
December 15, 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 December 15, 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 December 8, 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 Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Dunn 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 December 15, 2020.

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
December 15, 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 December 15, 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 Waites seconded by Commissioner Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 8, 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 Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Dunn 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 December 15, 2020.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council