

**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**

**January 26, 2021**

**6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on January 26, 2021, 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 Mayor Waites.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Attorney Fabre.

Council Member Bryant asked that 6102 Biscayne, under condemnations, be removed from the agenda.

**DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 12, 2021.

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. Overview of audit – Bruno & Tervalon, LLP (Mayor)

Mr. Joseph Akanji, Bruno & Tervalon, LLP, provided an overview of the audit.

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

Council Member Bryant announced the rent moratorium has been extended until March 31, 2021. She wanted everyone to be aware that evictions are happening despite the extension. She suggested that landlords use this time to revise their leases, making additions that will ensure they obtain quality tenants. Council Member Bryant thanked homeowners for their participation and working with the police department to address safety issues in the City of Baker. She stated it is not her goal to destroy people's property or to tear down buildings, but to increase property values in neighborhoods throughout the City of Baker.

3. Discuss completion of Baker Economic Development District and Convention Center survey by council members and citizens (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent said they do not have council member or citizen responses to the survey sent out by the Baker Economic Development District and Convention Center. He implored everyone to complete the survey so the initiative can move forward.

Council Member Jackson asked if the survey could be included in citizen's billing statements, as many may not have the technology to participate in an online survey. Council Member Vincent stated he would bring this to the leadership's attention at their next meeting, so that they can explore that option.

Council Member Young asked for a copy of page 33 of the audit report, as his copy was missing that page. Finance Director Mary Sue Stages stated page 33 of the audit report is a title page. She asked if Council Member Young could possibly be referring to page 23, as that is the page Mr. Akanji was reading from during his presentation. The Mayor stated a summary of Mr. Akanji's presentation can be found on page 34 of the audit report.

### **RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Resolution to adopt Section 3 Plan (Mayor)

The Mayor provided an overview of the proposed resolution.

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

Council Member Jackson asked for clarification on the Section 3 Plan.

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages explained the Community Development Block grant requires that the City have a Section 3 Plan. She said the City of Baker's procurement policy includes notifying minority and women owned businesses, specifically, of the need for services. She said the Section 3 Plan referenced in the resolution is word for word from what is recommended by HUD. Ms. Stages said the plan states whenever the City has grants, they will abide by the federal guidelines of that grant.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Dunn stated she would like to review the Section 3 Plan prior to voting.

The Mayor said this agenda item will be tabled until council members have enough time to read the plan. He said should time constraints become a factor, he will call a special meeting to vote on the resolution.

2. Proclamation declaring February 1<sup>st</sup> Ginger Vann Day in the City of Baker (Jackson)

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 February 2021 African American History Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

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

4. Proclamation declaring February 2021 American Heart Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

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.

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

1. Adopt Ordinance 2021-1, sales & use tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/12/2021)  
Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to adopt Ordinance 2021-1.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Adopt Ordinance 2021-2, insurance license tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/12/2021)  
Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2021-2.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Adopt Ordinance 2021-3, occupational license tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/12/2021)  
Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Members Dunn/Young to adopt Ordinance 2021-3.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Adopt Ordinance 2021-4, chain store license tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/12/2021)  
Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Jackson to adopt Ordinance 2021-4.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

5. Adopt Ordinance 2021-5, alcoholic beverage tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/12/2021)  
Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2021-5.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

6. Adopt Ordinance 2021-6, property tax 5.760 mills (Mayor) (Introduced 1/12/2021)  
Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Bryant to adopt Ordinance 2021-6.

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. 1916 Florida (Mayor)  
No action was taken on this agenda item.
5. 5803 Biscayne (Bryant)  
No action was taken on this agenda item.
6. 5804 Biscayne (Bryant)  
No action was taken on this agenda item.
7. 5901 Biscayne (Bryant)  
No action was taken on this agenda item.
8. 6003 Biscayne (Bryant)  
No action was taken on this agenda item.
9. 6102 Biscayne (Bryant)  
The Mayor said Council Member Bryant asked that this item be removed from the agenda.

### **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**

Council Member Vincent asked about the City's progress with streets in need of repair. He said he has noticed cones and/or tape in numerous spots around town and was curious to know if there is a backlog of some sort. The Mayor said he would check into this matter and get back to him tomorrow. Council Member Vincent asked for clarification on the location of the ribbon cutting the Council was invited to on Friday.

Council Member Dunn said several of her constituents have contacted her and they are concerned about the City of Baker schools. She said we must come together as a city, that failure to do so will result in businesses and people not wanting to come here. Council Member Dunn stated the school system has been down too long, and the children of this community should come first. She stated Baker High School needs to be rebuilt, and this will continue to be of concern to her until the project is completed. Council Member Dunn said she spoke out with Mayor-President Broome regarding her concerns. She feels it is imperative that City leaders work with the school board and play a part in the process.

The Mayor stated the City is currently doing everything in its power to assist/work with the City of Baker School System. He reiterated that the City would continue to do all it can to better both the school system and the city as a whole.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Bryant said an education is the difference between poverty and success. She stated she advocated for working closely with the City of Baker School Board to positively affect economic development after she was elected for her first term as the representative of District 3. She agrees with Council Member Dunn that the system has been in turmoil too long and feels there needs to be restructuring within the school system. Council Member Bryant stated the Code Enforcement Officer has addressed the situation at the corner of McHugh Road and Baker Boulevard. Council Member Bryant asked about the status of the Buffwood Club. The Mayor said the City just received the funds to replace the roof, and the project is slated to begin very soon.

Council Member Young said the Town Hall Meeting was good. He said he spoke with Chief Dunn and he has already begun implementing changes discussed at the meeting. Council Member Young asked about the number of appointments council members can make to the Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety. The Mayor said if Council Member Young had three people he would like to appoint, that would be fine.

Council Member Jackson gave a special thank you to the Southern University "Human Jukebox" Marching Band for their performance on January 19, 2021 at the We Are One event – she said outstanding job Jaguars – often imitated, never duplicated! Council Member Jackson addressed the constituents of District 5 saying she appreciates their support, cooperation and understanding. She said be safe, be vigilant and remember – Teamwork Makes the Dream Work.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

The Mayor said the bids for the 2021 Road Program have been done.

The Mayor announced contracts have been awarded for the Bozeman Creek, North Canal, and Brushy Bayou projects, all of which are part of the flood hazard mitigation grant the City has been working on since 2016. These projects will help reduce local flooding.

The Mayor stated the Task Force on Community Safety will serve to make the City better.

Council Member Young asked about the projected completion date for the Diversion Canal. Council Member Bryant said the projected completion date for the project is 2022.

**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 January 26, 2021.

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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**

**January 26, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, sitting as the Board of Commissioners for Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, met in regular session on January 26, 2021, 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 Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 12, 2021.

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 Jackson, seconded by Commissioners Vincent/Young 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 January 26, 2021.

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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  
January 26, 2021**

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 January 26, 2021, 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 January 12, 2021.

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 Waites 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 January 26, 2021.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council