

**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

February 23, 2021

6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on February 23, 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 Council Member Vincent.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 9, 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. Kevin Gravois, PEC, to give presentation on road program (Mayor)
Kevin Gravois, PEC, presented information and provided an update on the road program. Mr. Gravois said M-Track, LLC out of Livonia was the low bidder with a base bid of \$1,234,567.89. He stated the City received a bid of \$165,885.69 for additive alternate work as well. Mr. Gravois said these figures kept the bid at about \$1,500,000.00 total. He suggested the City award the bid to M-Trak, LLC, adding the company is licensed and provided a bond. Council Member Vincent asked to meet with the contractor prior to construction beginning, as he was unhappy with their work on previous projects. Council Member Vincent said he wants to be told exactly how they plan to address this project/work. Council Member Dunn asked to be included in the meeting requested by Council Member Vincent as well. Mr. Gravois stated everyone is welcome to attend the preconstruction meeting with the contractor.
2. Department of Public Works to give presentation regarding stormwater (Mayor)
The Mayor tabled this agenda item.
3. Continue discussion on quality and fair housing in the City of Baker for all tenants, landlords and homeowners (Bryant)

Mission Statement

- A. To provide a healthy lifestyle through community gardens and exercise availability.
- B. To provide a safe environment through communication with each other & law enforcement.
- C. To provide all neighborhoods with a sense of pride & integrity.

Council Member Bryant read the mission statement. She addressed tenants in the City, asking them to contact her if they need rent assistance. She said renters had to have been in good standing prior to the pandemic to qualify for assistance. Her phone number is (225) 773-7135. Council Member Bryant suggested landlords use this time to change their leases to include city ordinances. She said doing so would help prevent problems with neighbors, as well as helping to prevent problems between landlords and tenants. She wanted homeowners in the City to know the moratorium for mortgages of federal loans has been extended until June. She provided an update on the property at the corner of McHugh Road and Baker Boulevard, saying the owner is in the process of evicting the tenant.

4. Discuss purchase of computers for City Council members (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant cited the pandemic as well as the number of Zoom meetings being held as two of many reasons council members need computers. She said COVID-19 is not something that is going away, and the need to meet via Zoom and/or other teleconferencing methods is here to stay. Council Member Bryant said in order to effectively communicate with each other, the administration, and constituents, council members need computers. She said it is imperative they have what they need to do their jobs to the fullest and therefore, she is asking for the purchase of computers for each council member.

The Mayor stated the City planned to purchase computers for each council member as part of the proposed council chamber renovation. However, he said the City will not wait for the renovation of the council chamber but will purchase each council member a tablet right away.

5. Discuss proposed fire station on west side of City (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson stated she has some concerns and asked Fire Chief Hunt for an overview of this project. She asked where the fire station will be located, what the projected completion date is, and how construction of the proposed fire station will benefit the City.

Chief Hunt stated the proposed fire station would be located on the west side of the City on the 50-acre tract near the warehouse owned by Red Stick Armature on Groom Road. He said a fire station in this location would significantly reduce the fire department's current response time to residents in that area.

Council Member Jackson asked if having an additional fire station would help the City's fire rating. Chief Hunt stated an additional fire station, along with sufficient personnel to operate said station, would likely bring the City's fire rating to a 1 – which is the best rating possible.

Discussion regarding the proposed fire station, the City's water system and the City's fire rating followed.

Council Member Vincent asked about the status of the fire hydrant at the corner of Brantley and Adair. Chief Hunt said that hydrant is an older model and is scheduled to be replaced.

Discussion resumed.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring March 2021 Colorectal Cancer 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.

2. Proclamation declaring March 2021 National Kidney 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

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

1. 4742 Groom Road (Mayor)

The Mayor stated demolition work will begin at this address in the next forty-eight hours.

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.

ANNEXATIONS

REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Planning and Zoning Commission
2. Annexation Review Committee
3. Economic Development Team
4. Heritage Museum/Related Committees – Will host a Black History program on YouTube.
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 said he is elated and wanted to let everyone know Mrs. Linda Thomas-Greenfield has been confirmed as the U.N. Ambassador. He said it is a great achievement and he is excited and beyond proud of Baker's native daughter. Council Member Vincent announced he received a text from Senator Regina Barrow concerning the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine will be available at the critical care unit on Airline Highway. For more information please call (225) 358-4853. Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor and Public Works Department for placing dirt in the holes near the sidewalk in Parkwood Terrace subdivision.

Council Member Dunn asked everyone to be safe and continue to follow CDC guidelines. She announced Our Lady of the Lake is making appointments for the vaccine as well. Council Member Dunn asked that everyone continue to wear their masks, wash their hands and practice social distancing.

Council Member Bryant announced work will soon begin on the community garden located near the Fire Department. She said climate change is real, we are experiencing it on a daily basis. She asked how wonderful it would be if a student from Baker schools graduated from their new building, joined Bill Gates and came up with a solution to climate change – considering Louisiana's economic status will change.

Council Member Young announced Wal-Mart is now offering the vaccine. Online registration is required. He asked the Mayor and City Council to consider working with the Post Office in an effort to have mailboxes placed at the road on certain streets in the city. Council Member Young stated doing so would facilitate faster delivery times and be beneficial to postal employees.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Jackson thanked Fire Chief Hunt for being on the call and providing a status update on the proposed fire station on the west side of the city. She said she sincerely hopes the City will begin working on increasing the pressure on the thirteen fire hydrants that did not pass inspection due to water pressure being low. Council Member Jackson encouraged everyone to be safe and stay vigilant.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor said they are working on funding for the community garden.

The Mayor asked all council members to submit the names of two or three individuals from their district for the Mayor's Task Force on Public Safety.

The Mayor stated the City is moving forward. He said he appreciates Council members and their willingness to work together.

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 February 23, 2021.

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

February 23, 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 February 23, 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 Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 9, 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 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 February 23, 2021.

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
February 23, 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 February 23, 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.

Commissioner Waites said the Finance Department is working on a report for the Utility Commission and it should be available at the next meeting.

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 February 9, 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 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 February 23, 2021.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council