

**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

March 9, 2021

6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on March 9, 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 Council Member Vincent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Dunn.

The Mayor recognized Louisiana State Representative Barbara West Carpenter.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to add “Department of Public Works to give presentation regarding stormwater” under New Business to the agenda.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

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 23, 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. Gary Chambers – candidate for United States Congress – District 2 (Mayor)
The Mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled.

2. Discuss purchase of computers for City Council members (Bryant)
Council Member Bryant stated she spoke with her colleagues and there were concerns regarding the timing of the purchase of computers for council members. The feeling is computers for council use should be purchased now, not as part of the proposed council chamber renovation. She also said council members wanted computers and not tablets. Council Member Bryant said computers will allow council members to help constituents

get signed up for COVID-19 testing and vaccines, allow them to attend more Zoom meetings, and more effectively view city paperwork. Council Member Bryant said in order to effectively communicate with each other, the administration, and constituents, council members need computers.

The Mayor stated he sent an email this afternoon – the computers are here. He said council members can come by City Hall and pick them up at their convenience.

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 said Zumba instructor LaTonya Rounds is willing to do classes sometime in the future. The community garden will be planted within the next month with the help of Southern University. She said anyone needing rent assistance can log on to www.lastaterent.com. There are eligibility requirements for participation. 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 said the inclusion of ordinances such as 2005-17 would help maintain order in neighborhoods. 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. Status update: 13 fire hydrants, water towers and usage of Engine 23 (Jackson)
Council Member Jackson thanked Fire Chief Hunt for the informative overview of this project at the last council meeting. She asked that he provide a status update.

Chief Hunt stated they are working on the first phase of the proposed fire station, having the preliminary plans drawn. He said he is working with the water company to increase the water pressure along Groom Road and Highway 19. Chief Hunt stated once he has the status of those numbers, he plans to present that information to the Mayor and Council.

5. Introduction of Steve Smith with Republic Services – Manager – Municipal Sales (Young)

Council Member Young said he met Mr. Smith at City Hall recently. He invited Mr. Smith to attend tonight's council meeting so that he could introduce himself and tell the Council what his goals are.

Steve Smith, Republic Services, introduced himself and stated his job is to make sure that Republic's municipal customers are happy with the services they are providing. He said he is trying to meet everyone face to face. However, the pandemic has made this difficult. Mr. Smith said he will do all he can to assist council members and their constituents. He assured the Mayor and Council if there are any comments, questions – anything he can address with respect to Republic Services– he is here to assist them.

6. *Department of Public Works to give presentation regarding stormwater*
Tamirion Reese, Office Manager Public Works Department, gave a brief presentation regarding stormwater in the City of Baker.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation memorializing those we have lost to COVID-19 (Mayor)
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.

2. Proclamation recognizing and honoring Mrs. Linda Thomas-Greenfield for her accomplishments and being confirmed U.N. Ambassador (Mayor) (Vincent)
Council Member Vincent stated he is immensely proud of his former student Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield for all that she has accomplished, and especially the high honor of her being confirmed as U.N. Ambassador.

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

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

The Mayor recognized Representative Barbara West Carpenter. Representative Carpenter reiterated the importance of Mrs. Linda Thomas-Greenfield's confirmation as U.N. Ambassador, saying it is a really big deal. She expressed her excitement about this wonderful woman of many firsts, whose amazing accomplishments and advancements have exceeded far beyond imagination. She stated the confirmation of Mrs. Linda Thomas-Greenfield, a black woman from the Deep South, says a lot about how far we have come. Representative Carpenter said Baker's native daughter, Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield, comes from humble beginnings, from right here on the Leland. She said her strong family values have carried all over the world. Representative Carpenter said it is her honor and pleasure to speak about Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield and she thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to do so.

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.

3. Resolution authorizing the City of Baker, State of Louisiana to proceed with a not to exceed \$7,200,000 financing through the Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority (Mayor)
City Attorney Fabre read a portion the resolution.

Council Member Bryant stated a work session was held prior to voting on this resolution. At the work session, council members were able to ask questions and address their concerns. She said it is important this was done before voting to accept the resolution and the financial responsibility represented by this bond. Council Member Bryant reiterated this is informed action being taken by the Council.

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.

4. Proclamation declaring March 2021 Women's History Month in the City of Baker (Bryant)

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

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

5. Proclamation declaring March 2021 American Red Cross 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

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.

The Mayor said they are working on adding more condemnations to the list. He stated the goal is to have people take responsibility for their property.

Council Member Bryant reported that progress is being made at 5803 Biscayne. She stated she has not heard from Mr. Myer regarding his properties, nor has she seen any work being done. Council Member Bryant reminded everyone that Mr. Myer's properties have been in deplorable condition for five years. She stated she expects expediency in dealing with these properties should Mr. Meyer fail to complete the necessary work by the City Council imposed deadline.

The Mayor assured Council Member Dunn they will address her concerns regarding a property in District 2.

Brenda Charles, representing 3226 Polk, stated she received a condemnation hearing notice for tonight's meeting. Ms. Charles stated she and her sister just recently took over management of the property. She said they are at the meeting to find out what the process is and what they need to do to ensure condemnation proceedings do not go any further. Ms. Charles expressed her concerns regarding a vehicle towed from the property and the

seeming lack of notice and communication on behalf of the City of Baker. Ms. Charles said clear and concise communication is imperative in these situations.

The Mayor asked that Ms. Charles take his number so that a meeting can be scheduled to discuss these issues.

Council Member Young asked about the status of 1850 Florida. He said to his knowledge, no work has been done. Council Member Young stated he will double check the March deadline given to Ms. Gaines to complete the renovation work and proceed from there.

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 asked if the City has checked its ordinances about on side of the road cooking, as this appears to be a problem on Groom Road.

The Mayor stated the City would address the issue.

Council Member Vincent reminded everyone the third Saturday of every month is Councilman Vincent's Friendly Neighbor Keeper Day and asked that they do their part to help keep the city clean. He said it is imperative that we work to keep trash off our roadways and out of yards and neighborhoods. Council Member Vincent announced Southern University celebrated its 141st Founders' Day today. He stated he is working with a group that is trying to acquire information regarding the Archives Building on Southern's campus. He asked that anyone with information or stories about the Archives Building contact him at 774-8777.

Council Member Dunn encouraged everyone to get vaccinated for COVID-19. She asked that everyone continue to wear their masks, wash their hands, and practice social distancing. Council Member Dunn thanked Public Works Director Timmie Sept for addressing the concerns of her constituents on Boxwood. She said the Public Works Department has made great strides in cleaning the canal and behind the homes in this area, and she appreciates the quick response from them and the administration.

Council Member Bryant reminded her colleagues that they need to make an appointment with Trinard in order to have their computer set up before taking it home. He will provide an overview of the programs that have been installed at that time. Council Member Bryant asked if a waste-water test to determine how much COVID-19 is in the city could be conducted, saying this information would be helpful in determining exactly what our restrictions need to be. She closed with a quote from Maximilien Robespierre, "The secret of freedom lies in educating people, whereas the secret of tyranny is in keeping them ignorant."

Council Member Jackson announced March is Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month and the Buffalo Cruisers and Community Riders will host a ride on Saturday, March 27, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. The ride will begin at 3402 Baker Boulevard. She extended a special thank you to all the presenters at tonight's meeting – Fire Chief Hunt, Steve Smith with Republic Services, Representative Barbara West Carpenter, and Public Works Office Manager Tamirion Reese.

Council Member Dunn stated the computers for council members have already been configured, they only need to be picked up. She thanked the Mayor for the computers.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor provided a COVID-19 vaccine eligibility update.

The Mayor asked everyone to sign up for information by texting LABAKER UPDATES to 468311.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young 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 March 9, 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
March 9, 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 March 9, 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 23, 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 for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on March 9, 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
March 9, 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 March 9, 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 Bryant asked about the written report of the financial statement she requested. Commissioner Waites said the information would be ready 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 Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 23, 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 Waites, seconded by Commissioner Jackson 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 March 9, 2021.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council