

**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

April 13, 2021

6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on April 13, 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.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to add “Troy Carter – candidate for United States Congress – District 2” 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 March 23, 2021.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Troy Carter – candidate for United States Congress – District 2

Troy Carter, candidate in the 2nd District United States Congressional race, introduced himself and presented his platform.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Applications to the LA Community Development Block Grant FY2022-2023 Public Facilities Program (Mayor)

Ashley Lormand, PEC, provided a brief overview of both the application and grant process. Funds from the grant are to be used for utility work, more specifically, work on the sewer system.

Public hearing was held.

Council Member Bryant asked for an overview of what the grant will provide. Kevin Gravois, PEC, stated this is an opportunity for the City to receive up to \$2,000,000.00 in grants to rehabilitate its pump stations and underground pipes. Council Member Dunn asked if the grant would provide enough funding to allow the City to have its own sewer system. Residents would no longer pay East Baton Rouge sewer fees if the City of Baker were to establish its own sewer system. The Mayor said this grant is not nearly enough to fund an independent sewer system.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 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 stated Section 8 housing packets include information reminding tenants to obey city ordinances. She reminded everyone evictions have been extended until the end of June. Council Member Bryant announced LaTonya Rounds, Zumba instructor, has joined the Baker Chamber of Commerce and will have a ribbon cutting very soon. She reminded the Mayor that the trailer near the Fire Department, at the community garden site, is in violation of City ordinances and needs to be removed. Council Member Bryant suggested landlords use this time to change their leases to include city ordinances. She said the inclusion of ordinances, such as the City’s ordinance regarding domesticated animals or “leash law,” would be helpful and useful to all parties involved.

2. Discuss “Keep Louisiana Beautiful, Inc.” initiative (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent stated becoming a Keep Louisiana Beautiful, Inc. affiliate is an expansion of his Friendly Neighbor Keeper initiative. He thanked Rebecca Bonds and Johnay Hall for all they’ve done to support this effort. Council Member Vincent stated they are in the process of forming a steering committee for this project – Keep Baker Beautiful. Rebecca Bonds gave a brief presentation about the program and explained how it will help beautification efforts in the City. Council Member Vincent reiterated the importance of beautification.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution Hiring Engineering Services Relative to the LCDBG FY2022-2023 Program (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read portions of the resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young 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. Resolution Hiring Grant Administration Services Relative to the LCDBG FY2022-2023 Program (Mayor)

The Mayor read the resolution.

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

3. Proclamation declaring April 2021 National Earth 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.

4. Resolution accepting the recommendation of Community Development to submit an application on behalf of the City of Baker to become a “Keep Louisiana Beautiful, Inc.” affiliate (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent provided an overview of 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.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Adopt Ordinance 2021-7, an ordinance 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; authorizing and ratifying the City of Baker, State of Louisiana’s request of the Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority to issue its Revenue and Refunding Bonds; authorizing the borrowing by the City of Baker, State of Louisiana of the proceeds from the sale thereof; approving and ratifying within certain parameters the terms of the sale of the bonds; authorizing the form and execution of the Loan Agreement; authorizing the form of and execution of an agreement for the purchase of the bonds and ancillary financing documents; and otherwise providing with respect thereto (Mayor) (Introduced 3/23/2021)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to adopt Ordinance 2021-7.

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. 1556 Alabama (Mayor)
2. 1832 Florida (Mayor)
3. 1916 Florida (Mayor)
4. 3226 Polk (Mayor)
5. 5803 Biscayne (Bryant)

6. 5804 Biscayne (Bryant)
7. 5901 Biscayne (Bryant)
8. 6003 Biscayne (Bryant)

The Mayor stated individuals working on condemned properties must have all applicable and required permits.

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 – Plans are being made to have the event in September.
 - b. Prayer Breakfast – Plans are being made to have the event in August.
 - c. Strategic Planning Committee
 - d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Janet Sparks, owner of two properties on Baker Boulevard, expressed her concerns and posed several questions regarding the notice of violation she received regarding said properties.

Council Member Vincent spoke about an article in the Sunday paper detailing Louisiana DOTD Director Dr. Shawn Wilson's Take 10 program. The program involves DOTD employees taking ten minutes everyday to pick up litter/trash in and around their work area. Council Member Vincent said he is grateful to him for this effort. He said by working together we can get this done.

Council Member Dunn announced Chief Dunn has safety locks for guns available to any interested gun owner. In light of recent events, she asked that everyone be safe and more mindful when dealing with guns. Council Member Dunn offered her condolences to the family who recently lost their loved one to an accidental shooting.

Council Member Bryant announced assistance is available for those who were affected by the winter storm in February. Those interested can register with FEMA at www.disasterassistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-3362. She announced applications for DSNAP are now being accepted. Interested parties can call 1-888-524-3578 to apply.

Council Member Young said he and Council Member Bryant met with FEMA. Information from that meeting can be found above. He also stated there will soon be an update on the status of a grant for repaving the walking path.

Council Member Jackson announced that Rose's is hiring, and you can apply in person at 250 Main Street. She extended her condolences to the family who recently lost their loved one to an accidental shooting as well.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor announced a COVID-19 vaccination drive-thru clinic will be set up Tuesday, April 20, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Miracle Place Church. The event is being hosted by Southeast Community Health and vaccinations are for all. Registration is available on site. For more information call the Mayor's Office at (225) 778-0300 or Nanette Bester at (985) 981-4743.

The Mayor said the City's text-based information disbursement system that requires residents to text LABAKER UPDATES to 468311 is growing. He encouraged everyone to participate and utilize the system.

The Mayor announced the North Baton Rouge Soccer Association is open for registration. Additional information can be found on the City of Baker's website.

Council Member Bryant asked that council members be apprised of future food giveaways, so they can pass the information along to their constituents. The Mayor said the food giveaway held this past weekend was done by a local church. He said going forward, the City will ask those hosting the events for a flyer in order to better disseminate information.

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 April 13, 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

April 13, 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 April 13, 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 Commissioners Jackson/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 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

Niketa King submitted a monthly sales report for February 2021 and March 2021.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Young to accept the sales reports submitted for February 2021 and March 2021.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

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 for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on April 13, 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
April 13, 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 April 13, 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 Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 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

Discussion regarding requested monthly reports was held.

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 Commissioners Dunn/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 April 13, 2021.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council