

**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

May 11, 2021

6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on May 11, 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 April 27, 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. Justice of the Peace Tracy Batieste-Woodard to discuss evictions (Mayor)
Justice of the Peace Tracy Batieste-Woodard gave a presentation on the East Baton Rouge Parish Justice of the Peace Court and explained the eviction process.

Council Member Jackson stated she received the Justice of the Peace Court information at 9:48 a.m.

2. Pearlina Thomas, Chief Administrative Officer of CATS, to discuss the upcoming tax renewal for CATS (Mayor)

Pearlina Thomas, Chief Administrative Officer of CATS, provided an overview of the property millage tax that helps fund the CATS system. Voters in Baker will be asked to renew the property millage tax in October.

Discussion followed.

3. Schedule work session to discuss the City of Baker's noise ordinance, ATV/4-wheeler ordinance and creating a quality rental ordinance (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to schedule a work session on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. to discuss the City of

Baker's noise ordinance, ATV/4-wheeler ordinance and creating a quality rental ordinance.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. 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 she had no updates for tenants, landlords or homeowners at this time.

5. Discuss community garden (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant asked for an estimate of time for removal of the trailer near the Fire Department. She also requested an update from the Public Works Department regarding the location of the water line for the garden. The Mayor stated he is working to have the trailer removed. He suggested removing the existing fence and planting that area of the property to expand the garden site. Council Member Bryant said she would like to keep the fence in place, as it will help keep animals out of the garden. She said she would take that space and will work around the trailer until such time that it is removed. She said Southern University has volunteered to work on the garden this year. Council Member Bryant reiterated the importance of the community garden, saying Baker is part of North Baton Rouge which is a food desert. She said a garden benefits the community by making vegetables and fruits available to residents.

Council Member Vincent asked if there would be a garden at the Methodist church this year. Council Member Bryant stated due to the pastor's ongoing health issues, there would be no garden at that site this year.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring May 2021 Skin Cancer Prevention Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Administrative Officer Angela Machen 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 May 2021 Lupus Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent introduced Linda Perkins.

Linda Perkins, President of the Louisiana Lupus Foundation, spoke about lupus and presented information on the Louisiana Lupus Foundation, Lupus Awareness Month and the various events taking place throughout the month of May. She said last Saturday City to City Riders Cycling Club held their First Annual Lupus Bike Ride in the City of Baker. For more information on lupus and upcoming events scheduled for this month go to www.louisianalupusfoundation.org. Ms. Perkins thanked everyone for the opportunity to share information regarding the Louisiana Lupus Foundation and National Lupus Awareness Month.

Administrative Officer Angela Machen read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, 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 2021-8, an ordinance to amend and reenact BCO 14-1001 sale or possession of a controlled substance (Mayor)

The Mayor stated this ordinance only changes the title.

Public meeting was held.

Council Member Jackson asked for the reason for the title change.

The Mayor stated that after speaking with the Police Department and the City Attorney, it is his understanding that the title change will make for stronger enforcement.

Council Member Bryant asked, for clarification purposes, if changing the language made it easier to bring the violator in front of the judge and made prosecution clearer.

The Mayor said that is his understanding of the title change. He said the Police Department asked for the change to help with enforcement.

Council Member Jackson stated according to what was said at the last council meeting, the word sale is being taken out of the title because the Baker City Court cannot prosecute someone for the sale. She said people have expressed concern about taking the word sale out of the ordinance. Council Member Jackson asked that it be noted on the record that she voiced the people's concerns regarding the removal of the word sale. She suggested the City Attorney provide further explanation of the change in language at a later date.

Council Member Dunn asked to table this agenda item and give the City Attorney an opportunity to provide an explanation of the change in language, resulting in clarity and a better understanding of the proposed ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Jackson to table this agenda item.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Vincent did not vote, as he was momentarily disconnected from the call.

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

1. 1556 Alabama (Mayor)

2. 1832 Florida (Mayor)

The Mayor asked if anyone representing 1832 Florida was present. There was no representative present. The Mayor stated the extension granted to the owner of this property has expired. He said the City will send one last letter to the owners before moving on to the next phase of the process.

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 asked if anyone representing 5804 Biscayne, 5901 Biscayne and 6003 Biscayne was present. No representative was present. The Mayor stated the extension granted to the owner of these properties has expired. He asked for a motion and second to demolish 6003 Biscayne.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Young to demolish 6003 Biscayne.

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 – The Mayor stated there will be a report at the next council meeting.
 - c. Strategic Planning Committee
 - d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Vincent stated his heart was heavy and asked everyone to keep the Blakes family in their prayers. They lost their son, Kevin Blakes, in a tragic car accident last night. Mr. Toras Blakes lives in Parkwood Terrace subdivision. Council Member Vincent asked that everyone continue to support and lift the family up in prayer.

Council Member Dunn asked that everyone continue to wash their hands, practice social distancing, wear their masks, and follow the CDC guidelines. She asked that those who have not gotten the vaccine consider doing so. Council Member Dunn expressed her disappointment with the BREC situation and suggested everyone continue to pray. She said the proposed separation will adversely affect the Baker community. Council Member Dunn stated she is praying that we all learn how to come together and be on one accord.

Council Member Bryant announced Move BR is currently holding a virtual public meeting on the project from Groom Road and McHugh Road to Lower Zachary Road. The project is slated to begin this summer and several public meetings have been scheduled. She said the project involves replacing the bridge and installing culverts and the culverts will absolutely improve drainage in the area. The estimated completion date for this project is 2024. However, this project cannot be completed until work on the Diversion Canal has been completed. For more information go to www.movebr@la.gov.

Council Member Jackson said she needed to make a correction to an earlier statement, as she gave the incorrect time that she received the Justice of the Peace packet. She stated

the information was sent at 8:21 a.m., 9:48 a.m. is when she received the council documents, and at 3:20 p.m. she received the utility report.

Council Member Jackson asked the Mayor about the camera device that was placed near the first bridge on Morvant recently. She asked what company installed the device and if the matter should have been brought before the City Council prior to the traffic device being placed.

The Mayor stated the device was placed there by Redflex and that it is a testing device. He explained the company placed the device there to test its effectiveness, as speeding continues to be an issue. Given the existing contract between Redflex and the City of Baker, the administration and Police Department felt testing and possible future use of the new device was an efficient and cost-effective means to reduce speeding in the City. The Mayor said if the decision is made to use the new device, he will bring that before the Council.

Council Member Bryant said she spoke with Chief Dunn and he explained that since the device is only being tested, no tickets are being issued at this time. If the decision is made to use the camera all requisite signs will be posted at that time.

Council Member Jackson asked that in the future the Council be notified of such decisions prior to placement of any such device – testing or not.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor announced the vaccination event originally scheduled for tomorrow has been rescheduled for next Wednesday at Miracle Place Church.

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 May 11, 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

May 11, 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 May 11, 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 April 27, 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

Ashley Freeman, whose family members are interred at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, asked for permission to place a stone marker, without a bronze plate, in the cemetery.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to allow families to place a stone marker, with or without a bronze plate, in the cemetery.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

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 for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on May 11, 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
May 11, 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 May 11, 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 Commissioners Dunn/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 27, 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

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to accept the Utility Fund report.

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 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 May 11, 2021.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council