

**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

July 13, 2021

6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on July 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 City Attorney Fabre.

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 June 22, 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

1. Approve Business License Request – 2021-3
Active Messenger Presents, LLC
Location – 3203 Singletary Drive #121, Baker, Louisiana
Zoned – R-5 (Mayor)

The Mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled, as no representative was present.

The Mayor then suggested the matter be voted on.

Council Member Jackson stated she would prefer the matter be tabled. She said she has concerns and questions and would like to delay the vote until she has had an opportunity to speak with the owner.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Update 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 announced LaTonya Rounds holds a Zumba class on Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. on Plank Road. She

encouraged citizens to continue to call in their complaints when someone is in violation of an ordinance or if they are in need of police assistance. Council Member Bryant said the grass is high on Baker Boulevard and Wimbish at this time and in order to promote pride and integrity it is important to keep the grass cut. She said she hopes the City of Baker will cut the grass in these areas soon.

2. Update on community garden (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant stated there has been no movement since the Mayor said someone would be hired to plant the garden. The garden is still not ready for planting.

3. Discuss the Debra Street well (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant initiated discussion regarding the Debra Street well. She expressed her concerns and had several questions for both the Mayor and Mr. Thornton, who was representing the City's water treatment consultants – Thornton, Musso & Bellemin. Among Council Member Bryant's concerns were maintenance, safety and overall condition of the Debra Street well as well as the City's water supply.

Discussion followed.

4. Introduce Ordinance 2021-15, City of Baker food trucks and rolling vendors business permits and licensing requirements (Dunn)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2021-15.

YEAS: Dunn, Young

NAYS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion failed with a vote of 2-3.

Council Member Vincent qualified his "No" vote saying he has polled residents of District 1 and found approximately 80% of those he spoke with are opposed to allowing food trucks in the City of Baker.

Council Member Bryant stated she voted "No" because she feels food trucks are not a fit for the City of Baker and because she believes the City's current ordinance is sufficient and complete.

5. Designation of Council President and Vice President for the Baker City Council for July 13, 2021 – June 30, 2022 (Jackson)

Council Member Vincent pledged his total support to incoming Council President Brenda G. Jackson and said she is a hard worker who will make everyone proud. He congratulated Council Member Jackson on becoming Council President and Council Member Bryant on becoming Council Vice-President.

As was voted on and approved at the beginning of the council's term regarding council leadership positions and based on the percentage of votes received by each council member – Council Member Brenda G. Jackson will be the Baker City Council President and Council Member Glenda Bryant will be the Baker City Council Vice-President.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution adopting the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the year ending June 30, 2021 (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

2. Proclamation declaring July 2021 Cord Blood 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.

3. Proclamation declaring July 2021 Flood 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. 1556 Alabama (Mayor)
2. 1832 Florida (Mayor)
3. 1916 Florida (Mayor)
4. 3226 Polk (Mayor)
5. 2235 Chamberlain (Mayor)
6. 5803 Biscayne (Bryant)

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

Rosa Linda Farrow, 2633 South, stated she is in desperate need of help and answers regarding damages to her home. Ms. Farrow alleges her pool, the pool's pump, fence, and multiple rooms inside her home have been damaged due to work by the City of Baker's Public Works department on the sewer line in her rear yard. The Mayor asked Ms. Farrow to contact him tomorrow, as this is an ongoing matter involving multiple parties.

Lauren Mayberry, 3203 Singletary Drive #121, owner of Active Messenger Presents, LLC stated she was on the line and asked what she needed to do in order to get her business license. Council President Brenda G. Jackson asked that Ms. Mayberry attend the council meeting scheduled for July 27, 2021.

Willie Williams, 14005 Longvue, spoke as Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission and stated Ms. Mayberry had appeared before the Planning and Zoning Commission and received a favorable recommendation.

Jeanette Sanders, 1152 Patricia, stated the ditch behind her house needs to be cleaned out, that it is not deep enough, and when it rains water backs up flooding her yard. The Mayor said he would send someone out to assess the situation.

Vivia Dimmer, 5302 Rue Nicole, asked about the status of the sinkhole in the road in front of her property. Public Works Director Timmie Sept stated he is in the process of hiring a contractor to dig the sewer line up so the necessary repairs can be completed.

Council Member Vincent reminded everyone the third Saturday of every month is Councilman Vincent's Friendly Neighbor Keeper Day and an opportunity to clean-up the community. He encouraged everyone to participate in these efforts. He asked that the Mayor not forget the ditches on Thomas Road.

Council Member Dunn expressed her sympathy to the Sept family, Mrs. Louise Sept passed away yesterday. She apologized to constituents for the food truck ordinance failing to be introduced. Council Member Dunn announced the Heritage Museum and LSU School of Veterinary Medicine will present a certificate to Mrs. Dorothy Anderson on July 14, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. and invited everyone to come out and join the celebration.

Council Member Bryant congratulated the 2021 National Spelling Bee Champion, Zaila Avant-garde, who is from Harvey, Louisiana. She said she was asked to report the tree at the corner of Alabama and Jefferson. She asked her colleagues to look at the pictures she sent of the ditches near the Debra Street well and said the grass desperately needs to be cut. She feels this is a safety issue and is not acceptable. Council Member Bryant also stated the beaver dam that she has reported numerous times is still there, as is the large branch and pipe clogging the ditch, both of which were reported over a month ago. She said these are the types of things that contribute to flooding in the City of Baker. Council Member Bryant asked the Mayor about establishing a veterans counseling facility in the City of Baker, saying they spoke about this some time ago. She said there are doctors interested in working with veterans here, however, they need a building. She suggested using a portion of the forthcoming 4 million dollars the City will be receiving from the American Rescue Plan funding to secure a building for a veterans counseling facility and to repair infrastructure.

Council Member Jackson extended a special thank you to Fire Chief Chris Hunt and the Baker Fire Department on behalf of the family on Sandra Drive they assisted last night – thank you for a job well done. She also thanked Council Member Vincent for his service as President of the Council and for selflessly sharing his wisdom and knowledge. Council President Jackson said she looks forward to working with Council Vice-President Bryant to move the City forward.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor asked Ms. Reatha Wright to speak about workforce development.

Ms. Wright announced City of Baker Workforce Development has partnered with the Louisiana Workforce Commission and is bringing jobs on wheels, a mobile unit, to the City of Baker. For more information contact Reatha Wright at (225) 615-4174 or email rwright@cityofbakerla.com.

The Mayor stated the American Rescue Plan funding can only be used for drainage.

The Mayor announced a Shop Baker event will be held Saturday, August 28, 2021. A back-to-school event will be held as well.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent 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 July 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
July 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 July 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 June 22, 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 Commissioners Dunn/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 July 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
July 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 July 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 Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 22, 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 July 13, 2021.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council