

**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**

**August 10, 2021**

**6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on August 10, 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 Young to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 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**

1. Approve Business License Request – 2021-4  
D & C Janitorial and Flooring, LLC  
Location – 3479 Van Buren Street, Baker, Louisiana  
Zoned – R-2 (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for D & C Janitorial and Flooring, LLC.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Approve Business License Request – 2021-5  
Gabby's Thrift Store  
Location – 960 Main Street, Baker, Louisiana  
Zoned – C-2 (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for Gabby's Thrift Store.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

3. Approve Business License Request – 2021-9  
Jus Wright Hair Studio LLC  
Location – 13888 Plank Road, Baker, Louisiana  
Zoned – C-2 (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for Jus Wright Hair Studio LLC.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Approve Business License Request – 2021-11  
Emery's Transportation Service LLC  
Location – 425 Epperson Street, Baker, Louisiana 70714  
Zoned – R-1 (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for Emery's Transportation Service LLC.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

5. Approve Business License Request – 2021-12  
Edwards and Sons Automotive  
Location – 3304 Baker Boulevard, Baker, Louisiana 70714  
Zoned – C-2 (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license for Edwards and Sons Automotive.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Introduce Ordinance 2021-16, an ordinance to amend the general fund budget of governmental funds for City of Baker, Louisiana for fiscal year 2021-2022 (Mayor)  
Finance Director Mary Sue Stages provided an explanation of the proposed ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2021-16.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2021-17, an ordinance to amend, supplement and reenact Article X Sec. 92 relative to installation fees/cost for new gas lines and to provide for other matters (Mayor)

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages provided an overview of the proposed ordinance.

Discussion regarding existing fees and the proposed increase to said fees was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2021-17.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Introduce Ordinance 2021-18, an ordinance to amend, supplement and reenact Article X Sec. 100.2 relative to installation of water meters and to provide for other matters (Mayor)

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages provided an overview of the proposed ordinance.

Discussion regarding the use and appropriation of installation fees was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2021-18.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. 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 the CDC has extended the eviction moratorium to October 3, 2021. Council Member Bryant said LaTonya Rounds holds Zumba classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. at 14412 Plank Road.

5. Update on community garden (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant stated the community garden needs a spokesperson and she is that person. She said the Mayor stated the current garden site is not good, a sentiment she disagrees with, and asked the Mayor if an alternate site has been found. The Mayor said he will confirm the location of the new site by the end of the week. He asked Council Member Bryant to call him to discuss the situation. Council Member Bryant stated she would prefer all discussion be held at the meeting and on the record. She asked that all council members be notified by email once the community garden's new location has been confirmed.

6. Discuss recently signed contracts (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant stated she was contacted by the City Administrator regarding this agenda item. Council Member Bryant said she requested a list of those contracts where the City has entered into an agreement and is dispensing funds. The Mayor said the contracts will be emailed to council members in the morning. Council Member

Bryant said reviewing the contracts helps her make decisions regarding the fiscal matters of the City.

7. Discuss plans to clean canal in Parc Chaleur subdivision (Jackson)  
Council Member Jackson stated she spoke with the Mayor and former Public Works Director regarding plans to clean the canal, at which time the Public Works Director said the City did not have the equipment necessary to complete the work and the job would have to be contracted out. Council Member Jackson said she mentioned the situation to the Mayor again shortly after the current Public Works Director was appointed. She said she is concerned about overgrowth and erosion at this site and asked the Mayor what the City plans to do about cleaning the canal. The Mayor said this is Bozeman Creek and it is being addressed through HMGP. Council Member Jackson thanked the Mayor and said she would pass the information on to her constituents. She stated this is a reminder of the discussion held three or four years ago regarding cleaning the canal.

8. Update on sinkhole in Parc Chaleur subdivision (Jackson)  
Council Member Jackson asked for an update and if a contract has been signed for repair work at this location. The Mayor stated he did not have any information on it at this time. Council Member Jackson said she would let Ms. Dimmer know.

#### **RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Proclamation declaring August 2021 National Immunization 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**

1. Reappoint R. Andrew Booth to Fire and Police Civil Service Board (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to reappoint R. Andrew Booth to the Fire and Police Civil Service Board.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

#### **CONDEMNATIONS**

1. 1556 Alabama (Mayor)

2. 1832 Florida (Mayor)

3. 1916 Florida (Mayor)

4. 3226 Polk (Mayor)

5. 2235 Chamberlain (Mayor)

6. 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)

7. White house next door to 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)

8. 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 – Postponed until November.
  - c. Strategic Planning Committee
  - d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement

### **NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Vincent said he continues to receive complaints regarding trash pick-up. He asked that a representative from Republic Services be at the next council meeting so these issues can be addressed. He thanked the Mayor for cutting the grass in the city and asked him to not forget Thomas Road. Council Member Vincent stated the Baker School System opened yesterday and asked everyone to consider joining the Baker Bikers Club to support the Baker High School football team.

Council Member Dunn announced the Mobile Workforce Center will be in Baker at City Hall on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. She asked everyone to support the event. Council Member Dunn reminded everyone to stay safe, wash their hands, and get vaccinated if at all possible.

Council Member Bryant said a company whose business it is to pick-up garbage can not have an excuse that there is too much garbage to be picked-up. She said trash has to be picked up – period. Council Member Bryant asked when the contract with Republic Services is up. She feels it may be time to consider hiring another company to handle the City of Baker's garbage removal. She asked the Mayor what the City planned to do for this year's 9/11 commemorative event. The Mayor stated he had no plans for an event, but, as always, he would support any plan she put forth. Council Member Bryant expressed her extreme displeasure with the way the administration operates, citing a non-existent community garden and no plans for a 9/11 commemorative event as examples. She stated it is not about City Council members or the Mayor, it's about the citizens of Baker, and they should come first – always.

Council Member Young announced the Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Back-to-School Bike Ride on Sunday, August 15, 2021, at Jefferson Street Park. He said line-up is at 5:30, the ride begins at 6:00 and will end at City Park. Council Member Young asked everyone to offer their condolences to City of Baker School Board member Charlotte Booker for the recent loss of her mother.

Council Member Jackson said she will pass on the information from tonight's meeting to constituents. She then initiated discussion regarding the resumption of in-person council meetings. Council Member Jackson said she has heard from numerous residents who feel they do not have the best representation and feel it is time to resume meeting at City Hall. She stated she would like to resume in-person meetings at the next council meeting. The Mayor said it was always his intention to resume in-person meetings in September. He said if council members would like to meet in-person at the next council meeting, that is not a problem, all necessary arrangements will be made and precautions taken to ensure the safety of all who wish to participate.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

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.

Council Member Vincent asked everyone to keep Mrs. Paulette Bailey-Wilson in their prayers, as she recently lost her son.

**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 August 10, 2021.

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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  
August 10, 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 August 10, 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 July 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
2. Other Reports
3. Items Requiring Action

**ADJOURN**

There was no other business to come before the commission. The motion was made by Commissioner Jackson, 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 for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on August 10, 2021.

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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  
August 10, 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 August 10, 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 Jackson/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 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**

Commissioner Vincent thanked the Mayor and his staff for the notice included in recent utility bills explaining how customers are assessed fees. He said it is greatly appreciated.

**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 Commissioners Dunn/Jackson, 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 August 10, 2021.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council