

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3325 GROOM ROAD, BAKER, LOUISIANA
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL
Dial In: 774-220-4000
PIN: 22537
August 24, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on August 24, 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 Dunn.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Waites.

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 August 10, 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. 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 beginning September 2, 2021, LaTonya Rounds, who is a member of the Baker Chamber of Commerce, will hold Zumba classes in the Municipal Auditorium at 6:00 p.m. Council Member Bryant encouraged citizens to recycle, as it is good for the environment. She announced East Baton Rouge Parish Mosquito Control will come to your house and spray if you are having problems with mosquitoes. For assistance call (225) 356-3297.

2. Update on community garden (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant asked the Mayor if he could disclose the new location for the community garden. The Mayor said the new site is in Leland College subdivision and Mr. Willie Tate has volunteered to help with the garden. He stated they are looking at

another location as well. Council Member Bryant said Mr. Tate was involved with planting the first community garden and he did a beautiful job. Council Member Bryant asked the Mayor if he still plans to hire someone to work the garden. The Mayor said volunteers will be used at this time.

3. Discuss Republic Services (Bryant)

Baker City Council members, representing constituents from across the Baker community, expressed their concerns with, displeasure with and/or provided input regarding garbage pick-up in the City of Baker. Representatives from Republic Services explained the situation as it exists for their company. They stated they are eager to formulate a plan of action that will facilitate working with City leaders and ultimately address resident's concerns and resolve any ongoing issues.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring September 2021 Ovarian Cancer 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 September 2021 Sickle Cell Anemia 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.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Adopt 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) (Introduced 8/10/2021)

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages explained the proposed ordinance.

Public meeting was held.

Council Member Jackson asked Ms. Stages if this is an amendment to the general fund budget as referenced in recently adopted Ordinance 2021-9. Finance Director Mary Sue Stages stated it is part of the general fund.

Council Member Jackson stated she would abstain from voting on this agenda item.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Bryant to allow Council Member Jackson to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Jackson qualified her abstention, saying she is not against the Police Department receiving the funds. However, she offered a substitute motion for that part of

the budget because she did not support that portion and she does not want to be hypocritical. Nor does she want to stop the Police Department from receiving their funds due to an error or oversight on the part of Ms. Stages.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Jackson

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Adopt 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) (Introduced 8/10/2021)

The Mayor asked that Ordinance 2021-17 and Ordinance 2021-18 be tabled until City Attorney Fabre is present.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Members Jackson/Vincent to table Ordinance 2021-17 and Ordinance 2021-18.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Adopt 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) (Introduced 8/10/2021)

This agenda item was previously addressed.

4. Discuss application for funding under the Love Louisiana Outdoors grant for improvements to City Park (Mayor)

Ashley Batts provided an overview of the Love Louisiana Outdoors grant.

Public meeting was held.

An online survey is available on the City of Baker's website. Residents are encouraged to complete the survey, as community input is a required component of the grant application.

Discussion regarding resurfacing the walking track in City Park was held.

Discussion regarding the proposed use of grant funds was held and suggestions for possible uses of grant funds were taken and noted.

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. 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)

7. White house next door to 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)
8. 5803 Biscayne (Bryant)
9. 4451 Baker Boulevard (Bryant)
10. 4509 Baker Boulevard (Bryant)

ANNEXATIONS

Mr. Horton asked why the City is not trying to annex different areas into Baker. The Mayor stated annexation is part of the master plan and they are working diligently on annexing different areas into Baker.

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 about annexation and how this could impact the Baker School System. Ms. Butler questioned the City's plan to put asphalt down on the walking track in City Park and return later to put down turf. She suggested putting turf down and avoid spending extra money. The Mayor and Council Member Young both said decisions regarding resurfacing the walking track were made after the survey of regular walkers was completed.

Boatner on Shilo said that both his councilman and the Mayor respond in a timely manner. He also said much of the problem with trash pick-up in the City is due to contractors not removing debris that is their responsibility. Mr. Boatner said he appreciates the unification effort by City leaders.

Council Member Vincent thanked Dr. Patt Roberson for all of the books she has donated to the Little Free Library. He thanked the Mayor for cutting the ditch on Thomas Road and reminded him to keep it on the list of ditches to be cut. Council Member Vincent encouraged residents to pick-up trash in their neighborhoods on a regular basis, as it helps beautify the City. He reminded everyone to be safe, get vaccinated and put God first in their life.

Council Member Bryant thanked the Public Works Department for taking the necessary steps to have the beaver dam on Bentley Drive removed. She asked the Mayor what the date for this year's 9/11 commemorative event was, and suggested Thursday, September 9, 2021. The Mayor said he would take it into consideration. Council Member Bryant suggested again that the administration consider wastewater testing to determine the amount of COVID in the City. Council Member Bryant acknowledged receipt of the requested contracts. She asked the Mayor to share the book she gave him that was prepared by LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio with members of his staff. Council Member Bryant said the book is a result of an incredible amount of hard work by numerous people and it is about flood mitigation. She asked for clarification on the contract signed with AT&T. The Mayor stated the contract allowed AT&T to do the work necessary to expand their broadband coverage. Council Member Bryant asked that in the future City Council members be notified when the City enters into a contract.

Council Member Dunn reminded everyone to stay safe, wash their hands, and get vaccinated if at all possible.

Council Member Young thanked the Public Works and Inspection Departments for their part in remedying a problem on Seville Avenue. Council Member Young and both departments working with property owners were able to resolve an issue that has persisted for approximately two years. Council Member Young asked that Seville Avenue be placed on the list of roads to be resurfaced. He suggested everyone check the unclaimed property website on a regular basis. Council Member Young thanked those who participated in Lieutenant DeMarcus Dunn's funeral service, saying everyone did a tremendous job of saying farewell.

Council Member Jackson asked for everyone's support of her effort to update verbiage regarding council members. She said official documents received from the State at this time say "Councilman" and she is advocating to have this changed to "Council Member." She has done research and the change can be made by ordinance. Council Member Jackson paid tribute to the woman who carried and delivered her, her mother, Ms. Betty Edmond, who passed away August 23, 2021. She announced funeral services will be held Saturday, September 4, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Ghost Church, 747 N. Union Street, Opelousas, Louisiana. On behalf of her family and herself, she thanked her colleagues and the Baker community for their support and words of encouragement. She shared the following message: God heals hearts. Take care of your heart and your health because from your heart, everything flows.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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 August 24, 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
August 24, 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 24, 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 August 10, 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 June 2021 and July 2021.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to accept the sales report submitted for June 2021 and July 2021.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Commissioner Dunn asked Finance Director Mary Sue Stages to further explain the sales reports submitted by Cemeterian Niketa King.

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages provided further explanation of the sales reports.

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 August 24, 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
August 24, 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 24, 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 August 10, 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 Jackson 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

Commissioner Vincent asked about the Utility Billing customer gas letter that is being sent out with the September utility bills. Administrative Officer Angela Machen provided a detailed explanation of the letter.

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 August 24, 2021.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council