

**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
September 14, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on September 14, 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 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 August 24, 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 – 2021-8
On The Spot Auto Spa
Location – 2002 Main Street, Baker, Louisiana
Zoned – C-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 On The Spot Auto Spa.

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 – 2021-13
K Dubb Enterprise LLC
Location – 1060 Main Street, Baker, Louisiana
Zoned – C-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 K Dubb Enterprise LLC.

Discussion regarding the proposed business resumed. Mr. Williams was asked to come back and report to the City Council what the State Fire Marshal said regarding his building's capacity.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Schedule work session to discuss making landlords responsible for the removal of trash following evictions (Mayor)

The Mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled.

2. 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. Council Member Bryant announced that Congressman Troy Carter has asked for a rent extension for Louisiana residents and a moratorium on evictions until September 24, 2021. She said she has received complaints regarding loud music in certain neighborhoods. She has spoken with an officer who advised her that residents are not willing to give their name when making complaints, therefore complaints become anonymous. The officer explained the name of the person filing the complaint is not given out. However, the complainant's name will appear on any subsequent paperwork pertaining to the incident. Council Member Bryant encouraged people to be braver, bolder in their neighborhoods, and asked that everyone be respectful to their neighbors. Council Member Bryant stated she would like the citizens of Baker to have CO2 monitors made available to them, as these monitors would help keep people safe. She cited the use of generators during power outages as an example of the increased risk of CO2 poisoning.

3. History of community garden (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant said at this time of hardship, a community garden would be a benefit to residents of the Baker community. With regards to the Mayor's proposed location for the garden site, she said she has received calls from people in the Leland College area who do not want the garden placed there. She said she sees no reason the garden cannot be in the same place it has been for the last two years. Council Member Bryant provided an overview of the community garden's history. She said the garden is an essential part of City leaders being there for the community at this time. Council Member Bryant stated she would not stop talking about the community garden until there is a garden. She asked the Mayor for an update on when the garden will be planted. The Mayor stated he had no comment at this time. Council Member Dunn stated the garden has been delayed because Mr. Willie Tate had to have minor surgery. She said Hurricane Ida contributed to the delay as well. Council Member Dunn said work has begun at the site and Mr. Tate will resume planting as soon as the weather permits. Council Member Bryant suggested a water source for the garden be identified prior to planting.

4. Schedule work session to discuss maintenance of ditches in residential areas (Bryant)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to schedule a work session, both in-person and via telephone conference call, on

Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss maintenance of ditches in residential areas.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

5. Discuss LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio's findings and how to utilize them to better the Baker community (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant feels the importance of flood hazard mitigation in the City of Baker cannot be overstated. In speaking about LSU's findings, she explained one of the study's suggestions which called for placing detention ponds in park areas located in District 3. She suggested including this project as part of a grant or using money recently received from the federal government for infrastructure to fund the project. Council Member Bryant said addressing the City's flood issues is a long-term project that will take a lot of work and resources, but one she feels can be accomplished. She spoke about various ways to alleviate flooding in the community and reiterated, ultimately, her goal is a drier Baker.

6. History of Baker's 9/11 commemoration and celebration of first responders (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant said this is the first year a 9/11 commemoration and luncheon has not been held. She publicly thanked first responders for their service – the Fire Department, Police Department, EMTs and City employees who assist in these times. She then read a prayer for the anniversary of 9/11. Council Member Bryant detailed the history of the City of Baker's 9/11 commemoration and celebration for first responders. She said next year she would like to have a banquet for first responders and their families to make up for missing this year.

7. Introduce Ordinance 2021-19, an ordinance to address official title of Baker City Council members and to provide for other related matters (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson explained her reason for requesting and placing the proposed ordinance on the agenda.

City Attorney Fabre provided an overview of the proposed ordinance.

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

City Attorney Fabre read portions of the proposed ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2021-19.

Council Member Dunn asked City Attorney Fabre for further clarification on this ordinance.

Discussion followed.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Dunn

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

Council Member Jackson stated, for clarification purposes, the reason for the ordinance is to change the term from "Councilman" to "Council Member" when a person goes to qualify for election in the City of Baker and on the subsequent paperwork issued by the Secretary of State's office following the election.

8. Discuss implementing a moratorium on future development in the City of Baker (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson stated constituents have expressed concerns regarding drainage, infrastructure, and the development of any residential subdivision. She stated she believes in smart planning and smart growth, but she also believes citizens have the right to feel safe and secure in their community. Council Member Jackson initiated discussion regarding implementing a moratorium on future development in the City of Baker and said she wanted to be clear, this item was placed on the agenda to address concerns expressed by citizens.

Council Member Bryant said she is against a moratorium. She opposes stopping progress and said the time to correct infrastructure and address flooding issues, in a given area, is at the time of construction.

Council Member Dunn said she is for growth for the City of Baker, and she would like to see subdivisions developed in the community. She feels development would be advantageous for the City of Baker School System, as it would promote growth.

Council Member Vincent said he has been blessed to be a part of the economic movement of Baker for several years. He stated he is pro economic development, he is for economic development. He suggested being cautious and considering all parameters of new development, as they are doing, and their impact. He said we must continue to encourage the development of subdivisions and bringing in new businesses, so we can continue to move forward. He said he is not for a moratorium.

Council Member Young agreed with Council Member Vincent, advocating for being cautious, but certainly encouraging development and growth. He also advised sitting in and trusting the Planning and Zoning Commission and the job they do when these issues are brought before them. Council Member Young said he ran on economic development and he will continue to do what is best for the City of Baker and its citizens.

The Mayor said the City will continue to be cautious when dealing with any type of development.

9. Presentation on Sickle Cell Anemia (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent asked that this agenda item be tabled.

Council Member Jackson stated, for clarification purposes, that a moratorium is not what she wants. The issue was brought before the Council because concerns were brought to her by citizens and their concerns are valid. They are not against development, they want to make sure due diligence is done. She thanked her colleagues, the listening audience and the citizens who took the time to share their concerns.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring September 2021 Prostate Cancer 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 Young 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 2021-17, 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)

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages explained the proposed ordinance.

Public meeting was held.

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

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

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Bryant, Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

2. 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)

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages offered clarification on the proposed ordinance.

Public meeting was held.

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2021-18.

The motion died due to lack of a second.

Ordinance 2021-18 was not adopted.

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

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

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Bryant to extend the meeting time by 20 minutes.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Robert, Weston, stated residents in that area have been calling the police department regarding violations of the noise ordinance. He said nothing is being done to address the issue and neighbors are reluctant to file complaints due to fear of retaliation. The Mayor stated he would reach out to the Police Chief regarding these concerns.

Ms. Wilkes, 1805 Debra Drive, provided an update on the situation at 1803 Debra Drive. She said the property is in foreclosure and a police presence is needed as there is an inordinate amount of traffic at this address. Ms. Wilkes stated she feels her life is in jeopardy since the fence fell. The Mayor asked Ms. Wilkes to call him tomorrow so he can get her in touch with the Chief of Police.

Harry Horton, 13309 Brant, expressed his concerns regarding the City of Baker's failure to enforce their ordinances. Mr. Horton asked why no action is being taken to rectify code violations throughout the City and why the City of Baker has no authority to enforce their ordinances.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Vincent commended and thanked his constituents for expressing their concerns. He reminded everyone this coming Saturday is the third Saturday of the month and is Councilman Vincent's Friendly Neighbor Keeper Day, an opportunity to clean-up the community. He encouraged everyone to participate in these efforts. Council Member Vincent encouraged residents to treat their neighbors as they would like to be treated. He asked residents to tell the contractors who cut their grass to not leave grass in the street and to not blow grass into the catch basins. He also advised homeowners to keep the culverts in front of their homes free of debris. Council Member Vincent reminded everyone to be safe, put God first in their life, social distance, wear their mask and if possible – get vaccinated.

Council Member Dunn asked everyone to be safe during Hurricane Nicholas and avoid areas of flooding. She also asked that residents check on elderly neighbors to make sure they have what they need if possible.

Council Member Bryant asked the Mayor when Republic Services contract is up and due for renewal. She said they need to have a discussion about Republic.

Council Member Young thanked the Fire Department, Police Department, and City employees who distributed ice after Hurricane Ida. He commended and thanked Council Member Dunn for all she did as well. Council Member Young thanked Valero for providing hot meals for residents. He also thanked Advantage Charter for allowing them to use their property for the food truck. Council Member Young said he was happy to be able to serve the citizens of Baker.

Council Member Jackson thanked her colleagues for having the moratorium discussion. She thanked the Mayor and his staff for placing signs in the council chambers to replace the yellow tape. She thanked him for taking her suggestion into consideration and said it looks very professional and inviting. Council Member Jackson spoke on behalf of her family and said to her colleagues, the community of Baker, East Baton Rouge Parish and the State of Louisiana – we wish to acknowledge, with deep appreciation, the many

expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to us during the hour of our bereavement on the passing of our mother, Ms. Betty Edmond. May God Bless and keep you.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor asked that everyone continue to work together to better the City of Baker.

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 September 14, 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

September 14, 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 September 14, 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 Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 24, 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 Jackson/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 September 14, 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
September 14, 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 September 14, 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 24, 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 Jackson/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 September 14, 2021.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council