

**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
October 12, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on October 12, 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 September 28, 2021.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognize Planning and Zoning Commission members for their outstanding service to the City of Baker (Young)

Council Member Young recognized Planning and Zoning Commission members for their outstanding service to the City of Baker. Those recognized were Commissioner Roosevelt Bryant, Commissioner Sherman Dyer, Commissioner Admon McCastle, Commissioner Ronald Rollins, Commissioner Morgan Watson, and Chairman Willie Williams.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Reintroduce 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 explanation of the ordinance.

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

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2021-23, an ordinance to amend, supplement and reenact City of Baker Code of Ordinances Article II, Chapter 27, Section 27-44(6), R-2 concerning minimum living area and to provide for other matters relative to the same (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the City of Baker's zoning ordinances was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2021-23.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

3. Introduce Ordinance 2021-24, an ordinance to amend, supplement and reenact City of Baker Code of Ordinances Article II, Chapter 27, Section 27-45(5), R-3 concerning minimum living area and to provide for other matters relative to the same (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2021-24.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

4. Introduce Ordinance 2021-25, an ordinance to amend, supplement and reenact City of Baker Code of Ordinances Article II, Chapter 27, Section 27-46(5), R-4 concerning minimum living area and to provide for other matters relative to the same (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2021-25.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

5. Schedule date and time for Halloween in Baker (Mayor)

The Mayor stated the Chief of Police has chosen Saturday, October 30, 2021 as the date for Halloween. He asked the Council to set the time.

Council Member Vincent asked to abstain from voting on this matter.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Jackson to allow Council Member Vincent 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 asked to abstain from voting on this matter.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent 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.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Young to set 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. as the time for Halloween in Baker.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Jackson, Vincent

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

6. 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 stated her original plan was not to have a community garden only in District 3, but locations throughout the City. She explained community gardens are a part of the City's beautification project and anyone needing assistance with their garden need only contact her, as she has volunteers available. Council Member Bryant said the track is available for exercise and Zumba classes are being held as well. Council Member Bryant encouraged everyone to continue calling the Police Department with complaints because all calls are reviewed by the Chief of Police. She continued saying a sense of pride and integrity comes in part from the way we keep our property.

7. Update on community garden (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant asked the Mayor if a place to have the garden has been found. Council Member Dunn stated she had an update on the community garden from Mr. Tate. She reported Mr. Tate has prepared twelve to fifteen long rows, fertilized, planted turnip greens, and plans to plant mustard greens later this month at the garden site on College Avenue in Leland College subdivision. Council Member Dunn also reported a water system has been installed at the site. She thanked Mr. Tate for his outstanding service to the community.

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

Council Member Bryant stated her focus this week was on parks. She said LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio's findings included information on how to set up a park in order to help with flood mitigation. This information mentions rain gardens, retention ponds and splash pads. She reported there is a surface material that can be used in the park area that will absorb water, which helps alleviate muddiness and wetness after a rain.

9. Responsibilities of a council member noted to the public (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant provided an overview of the responsibilities of a council member. She stated a council member's responsibilities include reviewing and approving the annual budget, establishing long- and short-term objectives and priorities, overseeing performance of the local public employees, overseeing effectiveness of programs, setting tax rates, entering into legal contracts, borrowing funds, and passing ordinances and resolutions. She said these are things that will allow council members to serve the community. Council Member Bryant said council members can also modify the city charter, regulate land use through zoning laws, regulate business activities through licensing and regulation, regulate public health and safety, exercise the power of eminent domain, investigate city agencies when necessary, communicate policies and programs to residents, and respond to constituent's needs and complaints. She stated they also represent the community to other levels of government. Council Member Bryant said a council member must be an advocate for their district, they have a responsibility to their constituents to be accountable, they represent the interests of their constituents. She asked

that in the future information regarding events and happenings be shared with all council members, so they have the opportunity to participate.

10. Discuss City of Baker's charter (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant said things that were good in the past may not necessarily be good today. She said the City has a strong charter that supports the Mayor and sometimes this creates situations that hinder the Council and their ability to perform their duties. It doesn't allow them to move forward. Council Member Bryant asked her colleagues and the citizens of Baker to consider modifying the City's charter in order to move the City forward.

Discussion regarding the City of Baker's charter and modifying of same followed.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring October 2021 Domestic Violence 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.

2. Proclamation declaring October 2021 Eye Injury Prevention 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

1. Adopt Ordinance 2021-20, an ordinance to declare certain City of Baker property to be surplus and/or scrap, and to provide for other related matters (Mayor) (Introduced 9/28/2021)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2021-20.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

2. Adopt Ordinance 2021-21, an ordinance to amend, supplement and reenact Article II, Chapter 27, Section 27-41, and to provide for other related matters (Mayor) (Introduced 9/28/2021)

The Mayor provided an overview of the proposed ordinance.

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2021-21.

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Bryant, Jackson
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

3. Adopt Ordinance 2021-22, an ordinance to amend, supplement and reenact Article II, Chapter 27, Section 27-43, and to provide for other related matters (Mayor) (Introduced 9/28/2021)

The Mayor explained the proposed ordinance.

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2021-22.

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young
NAYS: Bryant, Jackson
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

Council Member Bryant qualified her “No” vote saying she does not see a reason to change the ordinance at this time. She feels it will negatively affect existing homeowners, and that this action is a response to rudeness and threats made by those seeking to develop a subdivision on Sunshine Road.

Council Member Jackson qualified her “No” vote saying she has procedural concerns and is also taking into consideration various concerns expressed by her colleagues. She stated once she completes her research she intends to reach out to the Council and administration. Council Member Jackson said she hopes to gain clarity and understanding at that time.

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)
11. 2116 E. Azalea (Dunn)

Council Member Bryant stated Ms. Toussaint at 5803 Biscayne has been working diligently to restore her property. However, she has run into some complications with her contractor, but plans to continue work at this address as soon as possible. She also said the

two properties on Baker Boulevard have been in their current state for over ten to fifteen years.

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 – Council Member Bryant asked when the ABC Board plans to meet. She also asked about the issuance of liquor licenses amid the pandemic.
6. Other Special Committees
 - a. Buffalo Festival
 - b. Prayer Breakfast – The Mayor stated this event has been cancelled.
 - c. Strategic Planning Committee
 - d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Vincent thanked his constituents, citizens of Baker and his colleagues for taking his Friendly Neighbor Keeper initiative to heart. He said he would like for all businesses in the City to have large, nice trash cans for customer use. Council Member Vincent stated trash cans are imperative to fighting litter and keeping the City clean. He thanked the Mayor and Public Works Department for keeping the grass cut in the ditches and along roads throughout the City.

Council Member Dunn thanked her constituents for giving her the opportunity to serve. She said she hopes everyone can come together so the City can grow and prosper. She said she is passionate and one of her goals is seeing Baker High School rebuilt. Council Member Dunn stated she hopes everyone can work together to develop a plan for growth in the City. She reminded everyone to be safe.

Council Member Bryant asked when the new year begins for street projects. Street projects are done within the fiscal year. The Mayor explained the process used to choose and repair streets on a yearly basis. Council Member Bryant initiated discussion regarding ad valorem taxes and if taxes are collected from businesses that do not have business licenses. Council Member Bryant asked the Mayor about the status of a building to house the physician ready to come to the City of Baker and provide counseling services to veterans. She also asked if the City has any plans to build a larger facility for its senior citizens, as the current Council on Aging building is overly crowded. The Mayor stated the City does not run the Council on Aging; they simply lease the building from the City of Baker. The Mayor said they have continually worked to bring veterans services to the City, it's simply a matter of resources. Council Member Bryant announced McDonald's has free breakfast for teachers from October 11, 2021 to October 15, 2021.

Council Member Young said Republic Services is picking up the pace and improving in District 4, they have no complaints. Council Member Young asked for assistance from the Mayor and City Council with the trash can situation in Heritage Court subdivision.

Council Member Jackson said she will brainstorm and get back to Council Member Young regarding the trash can situation in Heritage Court. Council Member Jackson initiated discussion regarding public meetings and the question of who is and who is not allowed to comment/speak. She also asked if the public is allowed to comment/speak on agenda items that are not being voted on. Council Member Jackson reminded her colleagues to look for an email from her about research she is conducting regarding procedural concerns and added she looks forward to any written feedback from all recipients.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor said the City is working toward long-term recovery goals.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Young, 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 October 12, 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
October 12, 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 October 12, 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 September 28, 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 Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Waites 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 October 12, 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
October 12, 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 October 12, 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 September 28, 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/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 October 12, 2021.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council