

**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 28, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

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

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 Young to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 14, 2021.

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 Jackson to add schedule work session to discuss responsibilities of a council member under New Business to the agenda.

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 Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to add 2116 E. Azalea under Condemnations to the agenda.

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

Council Member Bryant asked that her colleagues keep their comments and interaction with applicants for new business licenses professional and respectful.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation by Traci Birch, Interim Managing Director of LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio (Mayor)

Traci Birch, Interim Managing Director of LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio, provided an overview of the work the organization did for the City of Baker, as well as its goals and objectives for future endeavors.

2. Introduce 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)

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Introduce Ordinance 2021-21, an ordinance to amend, supplement and reenact Article II, Chapter 27, Section 27-41, and to provide for other related matters (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre explained the ordinance.

Council Member Jackson asked that in the future the City Council President and/or Vice-President be included in meetings regarding Planning and Zoning matters such as those being addressed.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Introduce 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)

City Attorney Fabre provided an overview of the ordinance.

Council Member Bryant asked if the phrase “and to provide for other related matters” could be removed from the title of the ordinance, as it is such a broad statement.

City Attorney Fabre stated wherever that language appears it has a purpose, it is referring to the other subsections, such as “Severability” and “Invalidation,” within the ordinance. He said you have to have that “boiler plate” language in an ordinance and that is what “and to provide for other related matters” is referring to. City Attorney Fabre stated it does have legal significance and that is why it’s in there.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

5. 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 said there is no community garden at this time. She said having grown pumpkins to distribute to the elementary school students would have been nice. She stated exercise availability was denied by the Mayor when he refused use of the Municipal Auditorium. Council Member Bryant said the lack of fresh fruits and vegetables and exercise availability negatively affect health. She continued, saying if you see something, say something, call the Police Department. Council Member Bryant reiterated 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 space heaters during the upcoming winter months as an example of the need for CO2 monitors.

6. Discuss contract with Republic Services (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant stated she never mentioned cancelling the City's contract with Republic Services. She said she has the right as a council member, as a citizen of Baker, to question the quality of service we are receiving. Council Member Bryant said council members have yet to receive the information she requested regarding the Republic Services contract. She stated she is not pleased with the level of service they are providing and suggested when the contract is up for renewal the City employ another company to provide waste removal services. Council Member Bryant said she is working to ensure the citizens of Baker receive the service they are paying for.

Council Member Jackson asked that a copy of the Republic Services contract be emailed to her or that she be provided a hard copy of the document.

Council Member Bryant asked that the amount the City is paying to Republic Services be included in the information forwarded to council members.

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

Council Member Bryant read portions of the report submitted by the LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio. She focused on the section of the report dealing with rain gardens and explained how the community garden is an asset to Baker residents in more ways than one, as gardens assist with the absorption of stormwater.

8. Presentation on Sickle Cell Anemia (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent welcomed Ms. Fulbright and the Sickle Cell Anemia Ambassadors and their families to the meeting. Ms. Erin Fulbright, Executive Director of Sickle Cell Association of South Louisiana, provided an overview of the services the organization provides to those with sickle cell anemia, their families and the community. Ms. Fulbright introduced the two ambassadors – Gabriel Campbell of Baton Rouge and Akira Stevenson of Lafayette. Unfortunately, Ms. Stevenson was unable to be on the call.

Sickle Cell Ambassador Gabriel Campbell introduced himself and said he attends Redemptorist St. Gerard School. Gabriel is eight years old and is in the third grade. He thanked everyone for having him at the meeting. His mother, Rhonda Campbell, said he thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the meeting and asked when it would be his turn to vote.

Cathy Williams, community health worker with the Sickle Cell Association of South Louisiana, said Ms. Stevenson is a tenth grader at Comeaux High School in Lafayette. She said the association services five regions in south Louisiana. Ms. Williams said the association is growing and community participation is vital to its success.

Council Member Vincent thanked the Campbells, Ms. Fulbright and Ms. Williams for all they do. He encouraged everyone to educate themselves about the disease utilizing available resources. Baton Rouge Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation is located at 2301 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to accept Gabriel's presentation.

Gabriel Campbell voted yes. The motion passed. Gabriel thanked everyone.

9. *Schedule work session to discuss responsibilities of a council member (Bryant)*

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to schedule a work session to discuss the responsibilities of a council member for Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring October 2021 Breast 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 Bryant 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 2021-19, an ordinance to address official title of Baker City Council members and to provide for other related matters (Jackson) (Introduced 9/14/2021)

Council Member Jackson stated 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.

Public meeting was held.

Council Member Bryant explained the purpose of the ordinance is to replace “Councilman” with “Council Member” on official paperwork pertaining to or resulting from an election. She said it is appropriate at this time.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Jackson thanked her colleagues for their support.

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)

The Mayor stated 2116 E. Azalea has been added to the condemnation list and the procedure for condemned properties will be followed.

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

Council Member Bryant asked if the City is looking at any particular areas for annexation. The Mayor said they are looking at a lot of areas, and when they have something, he will bring it to the Council's attention. Council Member Bryant reminded the Mayor that areas annexed into the City can be used for affordable housing.

Council Member Bryant asked where the City is at as far as economic development. The Mayor said they work economic development every day, that it's a priority of the long-term recovery goals. Council Member Bryant stated she asks because she has not heard anything regarding economic development.

Council Member Bryant suggested one way to utilize the museum would be to invite the students who excel in the classroom to lunch at the museum. She said this would introduce the children to the Baker museum.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Gloria Johnson, 14044 Brantley, said she was unable to find the minutes from the previous meeting or the agenda for tonight's meeting on the City of Baker website. She asked if these items could be found elsewhere. Mrs. Johnson also suggested sending the information out via the City's email/text service.

Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor for keeping the grass cut and not forgetting Thomas Road. He asked the Mayor to consider getting dirt to place along sidewalks and under culverts throughout the City, as wash-out in these locations can pose a safety hazard.

Council Member Dunn reminded everyone to follow CDC guidelines, continue to wear their masks, wash their hands, continue to social distance and be safe.

Council Member Bryant asked about the possibility of moving council meetings to the auditorium. The Mayor said the auditorium is not set up to allow for what is being done now with the council meetings. He stated the auditorium is being worked on and it does not have the audio capabilities needed to hold council meetings. The Mayor said he hopes to be able to revisit moving council meetings into the auditorium soon. In

reference to meetings held via telephone conference, Council Member Bryant said it's a disconnect, people want their voices heard regarding their concerns in the community. The Mayor said the Council Chamber is open and people can come there if they so choose, or they can dial in to the conference call. Both options are available and are being provided per guidelines from the Governor's Office. Council Member Bryant reiterated the need for renovations at City Hall. She stated she has said before she would like to see air circulation addressed in both the Council Chambers and the Municipal Auditorium and asked how far the City has come in getting that accomplished. The Mayor said they have applied for the grant to have that work done. He said these things do not happen overnight.

Council Member Jackson yielded her time to Ms. Denise Lavalais.

Denise Lavalais, 5308 Rue Jennifer, expressed her concerns and displeasure with the trash pick-up in Parc Chaleur. She stated the garbage is not being picked up on scheduled days, the cans are thrown all over when it is picked up and questions regarding the situation go unanswered. Her question is, "What are residents to do?" People are paying for the trash to be picked up and it's not being picked up. Ms. Lavalais said it has to get better.

The Mayor assured Ms. Lavalais the City is addressing the situation.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor announced resurfacing of the walking path at City Park should be completed by the end of the week.

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

The Mayor said contracts have been awarded for lift stations in the City.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn 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 28, 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 28, 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 28, 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 14, 2021.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Commissioner Bryant asked if there was a report.

No report was submitted for consideration at this meeting.

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 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 28, 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 28, 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 28, 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 14, 2021.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Commissioner Bryant asked if there was a report.

No report was submitted for consideration at this meeting.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Vincent stated he received calls from constituents regarding the letter sent out by the Utility Department explaining the computer error which resulted in increased charges on utility bills. He said he spoke with Director of Utility Billing Keba Coleman and advised residents to do the same, as she can provide more detailed information regarding their utility accounts. Commissioner Vincent wanted to reassure residents that the City of Baker will work with everyone to accommodate their needs and individual situations.

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 Dunn 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 28, 2021.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council