

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL – SPECIAL 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 28, 2021
4:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in special session on October 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 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 October 26, 2021.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Adopt Ordinance 2021-26, an ordinance to fix the rate of taxation and levy a tax to defray expense or operation of city government for all general purposes for the year 2021 on all taxable property within the corporate limits of the City of Baker, Louisiana (Young) (Introduced 10/26/2021)

The Mayor announced this public meeting was being held to adopt Ordinance 2021-26, an ordinance to fix the rate of taxation and levy a tax to defray expense or operation of city government for all general purposes for the year 2021 on all taxable property within the corporate limits of the City of Baker, Louisiana.

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages provided an explanation of the proposed ordinance as well as the circumstances resulting in a special council meeting being called for and held.

Public meeting was held.

Numerous residents voiced their concerns regarding the ordinance, abruptness of the special council meeting, the seemingly contradictory notice in the Advocate regarding a public hearing scheduled for November 9, 2021, and the tax rate to be levied. Residents also asked questions about millage, such as the definition, process used to determine the City's millage rate, and how those taxes are collected and utilized.

Extensive discussion regarding citizens' concerns and their numerous questions was held.

The Mayor acknowledged the concerns and reservations expressed by both citizens and council members regarding this issue and stated council members could make a motion to table this item until November 9, 2021, if they chose to do so.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to delay the vote until the public can be a part of a second discussion.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson
NAYS: Dunn, Vincent, Young
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
The motion failed with a vote of 2-3.

The Mayor called for the vote to adopt Ordinance 2021-26.

Council Member Vincent voted yes.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2021-26, an ordinance to fix the rate of taxation and levy a tax to defray expense or operation of city government for all general purposes for the year 2021 on all taxable property within the corporate limits of the City of Baker, Louisiana.

The Mayor stated Council Members Vincent and Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Jackson stated the vote was taken before there was a motion or a second. She asked if this was a violation.

The vote was called for again.
YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young
NAYS: Bryant, Jackson
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

Ordinance 2021-26 was adopted.

Discussion regarding the millage rate and property taxes resumed.

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 October 28, 2021.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council