

**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  
November 23, 2021  
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on November 23, 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 City Attorney Fabre.

**DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to correct the minutes of the previous meeting.

Council Member Vincent said in the last meeting when there was a reference to the charter and whether or not the Mayor could place an item on the agenda or introduce an item, the City Attorney, Mr. Fabre, explained and stated, for the record, that the mere appearance of the Mayor's name on the agenda in support of any ordinance does not constitute the Mayor's introduction or voting on an ordinance. Council Member Vincent stated he wanted that to be part of the minutes, the same, therefore not in violation of the Baker charter or any ordinance or law whatsoever. He said he wants this to be clear in the minutes because he did not see it and it is very important that it be there because of the item that was discussed thereafter. Council Member Vincent said he did not want any ambiguity in terms of what the City Attorney said and the instructions he gave, and he wanted that to be reflected in the minutes.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Members Dunn/Young to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 9, 2021, with the changes made by Council Member Vincent.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Jackson voted yes to Council Member Vincent's point of view.

**RECOGNITIONS**

**PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS**

1. Approve Business License Request – 2021-15  
Trinity Image Beauty Salon LLC

Location – 1496 McHugh Road, Baker, Louisiana  
Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

Mrs. Wiltz, Debra Drive, stated that according to the Secretary of State the business is not in good standing for failure to file an annual report. She asked why the business is not in good standing.

Ms. Robinson, owner of Trinity Image Beauty Salon LLC, cited personal reasons as to why the report has not been filed.

City Attorney Fabre stated the Secretary of State issues that form annually, and it is just requiring an update as to whether or not anything has changed and if it is not filed back within a few days it will note that it's not in good standing, it does not have any inference whatsoever as to the legitimacy of the business operation. He said it's simply an update filing, an annual filing that needs to be done that costs about \$20.00 or \$30.00. City Attorney Fabre stated it shouldn't affect the favorable recommendation that's been given by the Planning and Zoning Committee.

Mrs. Wiltz said the item should not be voted on given that the owner has stated the business's annual report has yet to be filed with the Secretary of State. She said if the business is not in good standing it should not be approved.

City Attorney Fabre said the Council makes the decision, furthermore they have no problem with approving what's on the table, which is simply the favorable recommendation from Planning and Zoning. He said once that's done the owner still needs to go to the Finance Department to receive the actual license and he is certain the folks upstairs will require that that be presented to them, but as far as the business plan that is what the Planning and Zoning folks are doing.

The Mayor asked that this item be tabled until the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 7, 2021. He asked that Ms. Robinson have all requisite paperwork with the Secretary of State completed before the next council meeting.

2. **Annexation Request:** Plank Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
**Owner:** East Baton Rouge Council on the Aging, Inc.  
**Name of Applicant:** East Baton Rouge Council on the Aging, Inc.  
5790 Florida Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806  
**Lot:** 6.205 acres designated as Tract C-2

**Subdivision:** Carlos Cashio Property

**Property Currently Zoned:** C-2 (Heavy Commercial) and A-1 (Single Family Residential)

**Requested Zoning:** R-5 (Multi-Family Residential)

**Proposed Use:** Senior housing and senior center

Michael Hubbell, Breazeale Sachse & Wilson, L.L.P., stated he is here to answer any questions that anyone might have regarding the annexation or proposed project.

Council Member Bryant asked what district the annexed property would be located in.

Mr. Hubbell said according to the City's council district map, the closest district to the property is District 3.

Council Member Vincent further clarified his adjustments to the minutes. He said it was this issue that came up that he was referring to when the City Attorney indicated that the Mayor can place it on the agenda but he cannot vote for it. It was this item that came up and he certainly wants an item with this kind of gravity to be clear in the records concerning it.

City Attorney Fabre said he wanted to make certain the minutes of the previous meeting are amended to reflect the statement Council Member Vincent made. He said the City Clerk is taking notes and of course the new minutes from today's meeting should also reflect that the Council voted to make that amendment to reflect that.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the annexation request for East Baton Rouge Council on the Aging, Inc.

Council Member Vincent voted yes.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Young voted yes.

Council Member Jackson asked to abstain.

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 abstained.

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

#### **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 reminded everyone there are currently two proclamations to allow citizens to have a community garden in the City of Baker. Council Member Bryant stated she spoke with Entergy regarding the streetlights on Groom Road near McHugh Road and was told they would be repaired by November 11, 2021. However, the lights are still out. A resident reported they were told by Entergy that the City replaces the bulbs in the streetlights. Council Member Bryant said she sent emails to Administrative Officer Angela Machen and Ms. Reese in the Public Works Department regarding this issue as well. She plans to monitor the situation closely until the streetlights are repaired. Council Member Bryant asked for an update on when the street sweeper is going to be repaired, as it would be helpful in removing the debris left behind by Republic Services. Public Works Director Timmie Sept said they are waiting on the part they need to fix the sweeper.

#### **RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Thanksgiving proclamation (Bryant)

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent 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 December 2021 National Safe Toys and Gifts 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 Dunn 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 2021-27, an ordinance to annex that certain 6.205 acre tract or parcel of ground designated as Tract C-2, Sections 28 & 29, T-5-S, R-1-E, Greensburg Land District, located in the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, being designated according to the official map of the Parish of East Baton Rouge on file and of record in East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court, being owned by the East Baton Rouge Council on the Aging, Inc.; and directing the changing of the boundaries of the City of Baker, Louisiana, to reflect and include the annexation and to provide for the zoning of said property (Mayor) (Introduced 11/9/2021)

Public meeting was held.

Council Member Bryant asked if the City has any financial responsibility with regards to the annexation of this property and what services the City would provide to the property.

The Mayor said the City does not have any financial responsibility with regards to the annexation of this property and the City will provide water and gas to the property.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Members Bryant/Young to adopt Ordinance 2021-27.

Council Member Vincent voted yes.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Young voted yes.

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.

Council Member Jackson abstained.

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

### **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 asked to add 5804 Biscayne back to the condemnation list. She said the sale of this property did not go through, and as a result, no work has been done at this address. The house remains in a deplorable condition.

The Mayor said he will send the inspector out to assess the situation and once all the proper paperwork has been completed, the property will be added back to the condemnation list.

#### **ANNEXATIONS**

#### **REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

1. Planning and Zoning
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

#### **NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Ikeal Davenport, 3341 Chamberlain, asked City Attorney Fabre what the City's ordinance says concerning food trucks on Main Street.

City Attorney Fabre said that particular issue is being looked at by a task force that was just recently appointed, so he is not in a position to render a legal opinion. He said there is nothing definitive in the ordinances that specifically prohibits such. They have to apply for a business license just like any other license and go through that process. He said he is part of the task force, and they are supposed to meet to explore that, a business license is a business license, the ordinances do provide, in general, in such a way where such is not specifically prohibited.

Mr. Davenport expressed his concerns regarding the food truck on Main Street and the owner's seeming disregard for City ordinances and procedures.

Discussion regarding the food truck on Main Street, food trucks in general and City ordinances governing such establishments was held.

Council Member Dunn stated she plans to bring this issue back to the Council for consideration after the first of the year. It is her hope that a clear and concise ordinance regarding food trucks can be adopted at that time.

The Mayor stated the task force plans to begin looking over the ordinance next week. He said the Council can legislate what they want, it is up to them.

Council Member Bryant said she wanted to inform the task force that they need to contact DEQ. She stated the building has consistently been cited for several violations over the years and is due for another inspection. Council Member Bryant said if there are any questions regarding what the inspector is looking for or what the violations are, contact Andy Messina at 225-219-3678. She said she has spoken with Mr. Messina and the building has been condemned and there are currently violations at this address.

Mrs. Wiltz asked if there were going to be any citizens appointed to the task force.

The Mayor stated there would be citizens on the task force.

Council Member Vincent wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He reminded everyone to be safe and asked that God bless them.

Council Member Dunn thanked the residents and businesses of Baker who gave to the Hurricane Ida relief effort. She also thanked the volunteers, everyone who donated their time and effort to the project, including Desiree Collins, Becky Bond, WAFB, Ms. Kelly, Ronald Williams, Council Member Young, Chief Dunn, Mr. Crosby, the Cajun Navy, Mayor Waites and her family.

Council Member Bryant wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded everyone to be aware of COVID as they come together. She announced residents can look forward to a Town Hall meeting that should involve all districts at the same time in the new year.

Council Member Young read the following quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." Council Member Young commended Council Member Dunn and Desiree Collins for their tireless efforts on the Hurricane Ida relief project. Council Member Young also commended Council Member Jackson for her turkey give-away. He said it's all about serving, that's what this thing is all about. He told everyone to have a good Thanksgiving and reminded them of the importance of serving others.

Council Member Jackson thanked the Baker Lions Club, Baker Texaco, Events & More, Faith A.M.E. Zion Church, Kings and Priest Institute, the Meadows of Chaleur Homeowners Association, Representative Barbara Carpenter (District 63), RJ & LJ Enterprises, LLC and Senator Regina Barrow (District 15) for their support and willingness to serve the citizens of Baker. She expressed a special thank you to the committee and all the many volunteers for helping her give the citizens of Baker a turkey and door prizes. Council Member Jackson thanked Ike Davenport, Don Kyer and the City of Baker Police Department for an outstanding job conducting the flow of traffic. She said on behalf of the committee and herself – everyone have a blessed Thanksgiving. She said she is thanking God for blessing her with all of you.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

The Mayor wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He reminded everyone to be safe and pray for those less fortunate than ourselves.

#### **ADJOURN**

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, 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 November 23, 2021.

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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  
November 23, 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 November 23, 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 November 9, 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 October 2021.

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

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

**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 for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on November 23, 2021.

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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  
November 23, 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 November 23, 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 November 9, 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 November 23, 2021.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council