

**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
December 14, 2021
4:30 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on December 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 Mayor Waites.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Attorney Fabre.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Council Member Bryant asked to have additional information included in the minutes of the previous meeting and made a motion to accept said minutes. Council Member Bryant asked that the minutes of the previous meeting include the following: The necessity of a city newspaper in the City of Baker. One of several reasons being CATS currently has a mini-bus service that goes through District 3 and to make the citizens aware.

Council Members Jackson/Vincent seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting.

Vote was called for.
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 – 2021-16
Shalanda Murphy
Location – 14025 Felicity Drive, Baker, Louisiana

The Mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled, as no representative was present.

2. Approve Business License Request – 2021-17
Royalty Car Care
Location – 1070 Main Street, Baker, Louisiana
Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for Royalty Car Care.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

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. Council Member Bryant said she wanted to speak about communications. She said at the last council meeting Simone Higginbotham provided guidelines in order for the City of Baker to achieve having its own newspaper. The reasons for a newspaper is so that we can better communicate with each other, as well as get the information out to the citizens of Baker. Council Member Bryant said we do have a text system that alarms several times a day, however, many of her constituents have reported disabling the notifications as they have become a nuisance. She reported CATS has started a mini-bus service that runs through District 3 and there are a lot of residents who are not aware that the system is up and running. She said if the service is not utilized it gets dropped. Council Member Bryant said since the City of Baker recently voted in favor of the tax supporting CATS, residents should take every opportunity to utilize the system. She said there is a need for bus service in the City of Baker. Council Member Bryant stated she did not like the way Simone Higginbotham was treated following her presentation at the last council meeting. She said she felt it was disrespectful and unnecessary. She reiterated that she feels it would be advantageous for the City of Baker to have its own newspaper so that citizens are aware of what is going on in the community. Council Member Bryant addressed shooting fireworks and firing guns on New Year's Eve and reminded everyone the City of Baker has ordinances prohibiting both activities. She advised residents to call the Police Department and report these incidences. Council Member Bryant talked about residents burning leaves and climate change. She stated she plans to address the City's ordinance regarding burning leaves after the first of the year and work with her colleagues to modify the ordinance, should it need it, at that time. She feels doing so will help protect the City from a major fire.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring January 2022 Cervical Health 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 Members Bryant/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 2021-28, an ordinance to designate and declare certain City of Baker assets surplus and/or scrap and for related matters (Mayor) (Introduced 12/7/2021)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2021-28.

Council Member Bryant asked that the Mayor quit calling out people's names to make motions. She said let the individual decide themselves whether or not they are going to do a motion. Council Member Bryant addressed her colleagues, saying, each and every one of us knows what we want to adopt, what we want to motion, whether we want to do it as a second, so we do not need the Mayor suggesting that by calling out individual's names.

Council Member Young seconded Council Member Vincent's motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-28.

Vote was called for.

Council Member Vincent voted yes.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Young voted yes.

Council Member Jackson made a motion to abstain.

Council Member Bryant seconded the motion to allow Council Member Jackson to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

Vote to allow Council Member Jackson to abstain was called for.

Council Member Vincent voted yes.

Council Member Dunn asked Council Member Jackson why she is abstaining from the vote.

Council Member Jackson cited Section 3-12 of the City of Baker's charter as the reason for her abstention.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Young voted yes.

Council Member Jackson voted yes.

The motion to allow Council Member Jackson to abstain from voting on this agenda item passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Jackson abstained.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-28 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)

The Mayor asked that 5804 Biscayne be added to the condemnation list.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to add 5804 Biscayne to the condemnation list.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

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

Council Member Bryant asked that Main Street District Committee be added to the agenda under Reports on Boards and Commissions. She suggested it appear as letter “e” under item 6. Other Special Committees.

The Mayor said it will be added and appear on the next council meeting agenda.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Vincent wished everyone a happy and blessed Christmas holiday and happy New Year. He invited everyone to join him on December 18, 2021, the third Saturday of the month, and participate in Council Member Vincent’s Friendly Neighbor Keeper initiative by picking up trash in their yard and in their neighborhood. He said decorations around the City look so very nice. Council Member Vincent wished everyone Happy Holidays!

Council Member Dunn invited everyone to come to the Holiday Pop Up Shop being held Saturday, December 18, 2021, from Noon to 7:00 p.m. in City Park. Activities will include a movie in the park, annual Christmas tree lighting, and a toy give-away. COVID-19 vaccines will be available. She announced a ribbon cutting will be held at the community garden on College Avenue Monday, December 20, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. She said they will be picking and distributing greens at this time and invited everyone to attend. Council Member Dunn wished everyone a Merry Christmas, a happy New Year, and said she hopes everyone has a prosperous end of the year and God bless.

Council Member Bryant asked for answers to questions she asked at previous meetings. She asked about the streetlights that are out on Groom Road at McHugh Road. The Mayor stated City employees are working to mark and submit streetlights in need of repair throughout the community. Council Member Bryant asked which employees are assigned to pick up trash in the City. She thanked Council Member Vincent for his Friendly Neighbor Keeper initiative. The Mayor said there are two Public Works employees who do that, and from time to time the City will hire DCI to pick up trash as well. He said the Building and Grounds Department also picks up trash. The Mayor said they also look for volunteers to help with this effort. Council Member Bryant asked the Mayor when he was going to let the citizens of Baker know that we have a new fire chief. The Mayor said the City does not have a new fire chief. He said the assistant fire chief is the fire chief at that point, and that is all he can say about that now. Council Member Bryant wished everyone a Merry Christmas, happy New Year, happy Hanukkah and Feliz Navidad. She said enjoy your holidays, enjoy your family and she would see everyone in the new year.

Council Member Young asked if the City still utilized community service workers to help pick up trash. The Mayor said when they are available, the City does use them. Council Member Young reported the flag distribution at Baker Heights Elementary was a huge success, with every classroom and some administrative offices being provided a flag. He said he was honored to be the guest speaker at TRG's Christmas celebration. TRG stands for The Real Group Sistas Ministry of Love and is a women's Christian group. Council Member Young said he spoke from Matthew 23: 11-12, which talk about serving and what it is to be a servant. As a result, people at the event volunteered to serve at future events in the City of Baker. Council Member Young wished everyone a happy New Year, a safe New Year, and a Merry Christmas.

City Attorney Fabre thanked Council Member Dunn, Council Member Vincent and Council Member Young for their thoughtfulness and the baskets they presented to him and City employees.

Council Member Jackson expressed a special thank you to Ms. Cherry and the Exxon Mobil YMCA Awesome Seniors with Attitude for affording her the opportunity to serve as the hostess at their event December 9, 2021. She announced the Baker Fire Department is inviting everyone to come to the bingo hall located at 14500 Plank Road on Saturday, December 18, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. There will be food and the opportunity to win prizes. Council Member Jackson announced a Planning and Zoning meeting will be held Thursday, December 23, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at which time the Planning and Zoning Commission will consider approving the preliminary plat for a proposed new single-family residential development. The proposed development is located between Paulfor Street and Chaleur Drive. The number to join the Planning and Zoning Commission's conference call is 774-220-4000. The PIN is 22537. She encouraged area residents to come to City Hall to view the application and map so as to be well informed and asked that they let her know how they feel about this matter. Council Member Jackson asked everyone to pray for those affected by the recent tornadoes. She said she hopes everyone remains safe, she asked everyone to stay vigilant and have a prosperous start to 2022.

Council Member Vincent announced BREC's 75th Anniversary celebration is being held Saturday, December 18, 2021, at Independence Park beginning at 6:00 p.m. There will be music, food and a fireworks display at 8:30 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked council members for all their hard work.

The Mayor thanked Council Members Dunn, Vincent and Young for the baskets they gave City employees, saying it was a great thing, it was from the heart and he appreciates it.

The Mayor wished everyone a great holiday, asked that God continue to bless everyone and asked that we continue to pray for one another all the time.

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 December 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

December 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 December 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 December 7, 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

Commissioner Bryant noted that the utility fund reports did not have signatures. She stated reports should have signatures.

Commissioner Waites stated the utility fund reports would be discussed in the utilities meeting.

Niketa King submitted a monthly sales report for November 2021.

The motion was made by Commissioner Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Waites to accept the sales report submitted for November 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/Jackson 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 December 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
December 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 December 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 December 7, 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

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages stated the utility fund report is taken off the City's accounting software, it is not a report that she prepares. She said she does not typically sign interim statements.

Council Member Bryant asked for verification that the utility fund reports come from the Finance Department and not the Utility Department. Finance Director Mary Sue Stages said the reports are prepared in the Finance Department and come directly from the City's accounting software.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Young to accept the Utility Fund reports.

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/Jackson 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 December 14, 2021.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council