

**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  
January 11, 2022  
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on January 11, 2022, 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 December 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 Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to add “2. Resolution concerning charter schools in the City of Baker” under Resolutions and Proclamations 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 Jackson, seconded by Council Member Young to add “1. Approve Business License Request – 2021-18 for T & T Smoke House Meats, LLC, 2. Approve Business License Request – 2021-19 for LARC Inc., and 3. Approve Business License Request – 2021-20 for LARC Inc.” under Planning and Zoning Matters 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**

1. *Approve Business License Request – 2021-18  
T & T Smoke House Meats, LLC  
Location – 360 Main Street, Baker, Louisiana*

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for T & T Smoke House Meats, LLC.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. *Approve Business License Request – 2021-19  
LARC Inc.  
Location – 3707 Buffwood Drive, Baker, Louisiana*

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

3. *Approve Business License Request – 2021-20  
LARC Inc.  
Location – 13445 Ector Drive, Baker, Louisiana*

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

Council Member Jackson expressed her concern regarding changes made to the council meeting agenda and asked the Mayor why Non-Agenda Items was moved. The Mayor said the change was made by the person who officiates the meeting so that residents did not have to sit through the entire meeting to have their issues addressed. Council Member Jackson feels any changes to the agenda's format should have been brought before the City Council prior to being implemented and asked her colleagues to place it back in its original position on the agenda.

Extensive discussion regarding changes made to the council meeting agenda and the manner in which changes are made to the agenda followed.

Non-Agenda Items will be placed after New Business on the agenda.

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

Non-Agenda Items will follow New Business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Introduce Ordinance 2022-1, sales & use tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2022-1.

Council Member Vincent voted yes.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Young voted yes.

Council Member Jackson stated she wished to abstain on all introductions of the ordinances.

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 no.

Council Member Dunn voted no.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Young voted no.

The Mayor stated the motion did not carry and advised Council Member Jackson that she had to vote yes or no on this agenda item.

Council Member Jackson stated she is abstaining from the vote.

City Attorney Fabre stated by choosing to abstain, despite the Council's vote to not allow it, Council Member Jackson is in violation of the City's charter.

Council Member Jackson said according to the City's charter an ordinance is to be read in its entirety upon introduction. She then welcomed discussion on violating the charter. Council Member Jackson said the ordinance had not been read in its entirety, which is also a violation of the charter, and suggested they begin again and read the ordinance, as required by the City's charter.

The Mayor stated the City Attorney said it does not have to be read in its entirety.

City Attorney Fabre stated the essence of what it is can be read into the record, but it does not need to be read in its entirety.

Discussion regarding the need for clarity and transparency with regards to proposed ordinances and a better understanding of such matters by the public was held.

City Attorney Fabre read the caption of Ordinance 2022-1.

Council Member Bryant addressed Council Member Vincent, Council Member Dunn, and Council Member Young asking why they voted to deny Council Member Jackson's request to abstain from voting on the introduction of Ordinance 2022-1.

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2022-2, insurance license tax (Mayor)  
City Attorney Fabre read the caption of Ordinance 2022-2.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Members Vincent/Young to introduce Ordinance 2022-2.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Jackson did not vote.

Council Member Dunn said Council Member Jackson needs to vote yes or no. She said the City Council can not continue to operate this way. Council Member Dunn stated if you are in doubt of your position you may need to consult your personal attorney, as is her practice. She said council members are here to work for the people of the city.

Council Member Jackson stated her lack of response was due to technical difficulties.

The Mayor asked for Council Member Jackson's vote on the introduction of Ordinance 2022-2.

Council Member Jackson asked for clarification and suggested she and the Mayor meet to discuss these issues. She went on to say if the Mayor presides over the council meetings, he should have no power and is not allowed to introduce any proposed ordinances. She stated this is where the conflict comes in, and it appears to her that not everyone follows the charter. Council Member Jackson stated she believes in following rules and procedures and standing by what she believes in.

The Mayor asked Council Member Jackson if she was going to vote.

Council Member Jackson stated she believes the charter states the Mayor is not allowed to introduce ordinances, and therefore she will abstain from voting on any such ordinance.

Council Member Bryant asked that the Mayor stop badgering Council Member Jackson and move on.

Council Member Jackson reiterated the reasons for her abstention.

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 no.

Council Member Dunn voted no.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Young voted no.

The Mayor stated the motion did not carry and advised Council Member Jackson that she had to vote yes or no on this agenda item.

Council Member Jackson stated she is abstaining from the vote and that she has given her reasons for doing so.

3. Introduce Ordinance 2022-3, occupational license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2022-3.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Jackson did not vote.

4. Introduce Ordinance 2022-4, chain store license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2022-4.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Jackson did not vote.

5. Introduce Ordinance 2022-5, alcoholic beverage tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Members

Dunn/Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2022-5.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Jackson did not vote.

6. Discuss charter schools attempting to locate in the City of Baker (Mayor)  
The Mayor stated two charter schools are attempting to locate in the City of Baker. He said a resolution in opposition to this action will be read, voted on and presented at the BESE meeting scheduled for January 18, 2022.

7. Stormwater presentation – Public Works Department (Mayor)  
Tamirion Reese, Office Manager Public Works Department, gave a brief presentation regarding stormwater in the City of Baker.

8. 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 there is still no community garden at the location used previously on Groom Road near the Fire Department. She announced LaTonya Rounds is holding an exercise class at the gym on Alabama Street from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Another, more intense, class begins at 7:10 p.m. on those days as well. Council Member Bryant thanked the Police Department for their efforts, which resulted in fewer violations occurring on New Year's Eve. She thanked the polite officer answering calls at the Police Department for her kindness and courtesy to the citizens of Baker. Council Member Bryant reported that there are still streetlights out all around the city. She stated this is a problem that has been going on for years and it creates a dangerous situation for the citizens of Baker. Council Member Bryant reported the situation with the trash on Ashland still exists. She asked how/why the City of Baker has ordinances that are not being enforced. Council Member Bryant said there is an ordinance which says there should not be a food truck on Main Street, however, one remains parked there.

9. Recap of 2021 (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant asked that this agenda item be tabled.

10. Discuss how to best move forward successfully in 2022 (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant asked that this agenda item be tabled.

11. Discuss procedure for obtaining an occupational license in the City of Baker (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn initiated discussion regarding the procedure for obtaining an occupational license in the City of Baker and offered her recommendations on how to improve the current method. The most important component of the procedure would be an enhanced checklist to be used by potential licensees.

Council Member Bryant stated there are guidelines for obtaining an occupational license in the City that must be followed. She said the procedure must be carefully considered in order to ensure potential licensees have met all requirements.

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

Robert, Weston Avenue, commended everyone who helped have the trash, which sat for two weeks, removed from the street. He asked that something be done about the condition and treatment of garbage cans. The Mayor stated new garbage cans have been ordered and should be delivered in the coming weeks.

Council Member Young reported he saw Republic delivering garbage cans in District 4 earlier in the day.

Michael Willis, 1002 Shilo, asked that Republic Services hire at least 100 more Baker citizens, as this would help solve many of the problems with garbage pick-up in the City of Baker.

Council Member Jackson thanked Robert and Mr. Willis for their services and working with council members to improve the area. She said – Teamwork Makes the Dream Work.

Council Member Vincent asked again that the City place dirt in areas that need attention. For example, in and around culverts in Feliciana subdivision, and along the side of the street on Longvue and Ector. He reminded everyone to take part in Council Member Vincent’s Friendly Neighbor Keeper initiative every third Saturday of the month. Council Member Vincent asked that when council members submit requests for work to be done in the city, a copy of the paperwork documenting the request, any comments, and/or resolution to the issue be placed in their mailbox at City Hall. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Council Member Dunn wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Council Member Bryant wished everyone a Happy New Year and read a quote from Sidney Poitier, “I have chosen to use my work as a reflection of my values.” She said Maya Angelou should be celebrated for being the first black woman featured on the U.S. quarter. Council Member Bryant shared a list of things she would like to see the City invest in in the coming years, such as a manufacturing center for electrical cars. She said she would like to see affordable housing in Baker and a major medical center as well. Council Member Bryant stated we are not north Baton Rouge, we are Baker, Louisiana.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent to extend the council meeting 30 minutes.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Young said it’s a new year and he has an obligation to his district to hold them accountable, just as they hold him accountable, to maintain his professionalism and to represent them in a professional manner. He stated he has a plan, which he is following, for dealing with issues in District 4. For example, he works with the city to identify and report streetlights that are out so they can be repaired. Council Member Young said he has asked the Council Clerk to refrain from forwarding emails from his colleagues that do not specifically ask for his assistance. He said he is here to serve District 4 and the City of Baker. He said he was offended at the last council meeting after being accused of badgering an individual who gave a presentation at a previous council meeting. He stated his questions were not out of line, that he was not badgering anyone, and he has every right to ask questions, as does every member of the City Council. Council Member Young stressed he does not have a boss at the City of Baker. He does not have a boss and he is not anyone else’s boss. He feels it is his responsibility to ask questions that in his opinion need to be answered. Council Member Young apologized to anyone he may have offended.

Council Member Jackson reminded the citizens of Baker that the Council Chamber has been open for council meetings since August 24, 2021. She extended a special thank you to Dianne Clay and commended her for the job she did creating the beautiful tree in the lobby of City Hall. The tree is a tribute to Black History Month.

#### **RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Proclamation declaring January 2022 National Glaucoma 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.

2. *Resolution concerning charter schools in the City of Baker*

Administrative Officer Angela Machen provided an update on the charter school situation in the City of Baker and explained the reasoning behind the proposed resolution.

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt the resolution.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**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)
12. 5804 Biscayne (Mayor)

**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
  - e. Main Street District Committee – The Mayor said work is being done to create an economic development district on Main Street.

Council Member Bryant asked if council members could add people to the City's various committees and stressed the importance of public input. The Mayor said that could be done.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**ADJOURN**

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson 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 January 11, 2022.

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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  
January 11, 2022**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, sitting as the Board of Commissioners for Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, met in regular session on January 11, 2022, 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 14, 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 December 2021.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to accept the sales report submitted for December 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 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 January 11, 2022.

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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  
January 11, 2022**

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 January 11, 2022, 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 Dunn/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 14, 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**

Commissioner Vincent initiated discussion regarding the improvements being made at the City of Baker's well on Debra Drive.

**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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on January 11, 2022.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council