

**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 25, 2022
6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on January 25, 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 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 to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 11, 2022, with the following correction and any other necessary corrections.

Council Member Vincent stated he felt one of the reasons he opposed the abstention was the fact that his colleague wanted the ordinance read, and after the attorney read it, and that was her request, that is why he voted no. He asked that this be reflected in the minutes.

Council Member Young seconded the motion.

Council Member Bryant asked that the minutes be corrected to show that the manufacturing enterprise she would like to see locate in Baker would produce the electronic chips used in electric cars – not the electric cars themselves.

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

1. Recognize Ms. Zindy Laursen honorary council member (Vincent)
Council Member Vincent recognized Ms. Zindy Laursen and named her an honorary council member. He also recognized Ms. Laursen's father, Mr. William Johnson.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to make Ms. Zindy Laursen an honorary council member.
YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young
NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Johnson thanked the Mayor and City Council for recognizing his daughter and naming her an honorary council member. Ms. Laursen is a renowned pop star in Denmark, and the two recently connected following Ms. Laursen's decades long search for her biological father. Many activities have been planned for Ms. Laursen's stay in the City of Baker. The Mayor and Council congratulated Mr. Johnson and offered their best wishes to him and his family.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve Business License Request – 2021-19

LARC Inc.

Location – 3707 Buffwood Drive, Baker, Louisiana

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

2. Approve Business License Request – 2021-20

LARC Inc.

Location – 13445 Ector Drive, 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 LARC Inc.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CATS to discuss bus routes in the City of Baker (Mayor)

Dwana Williams – Chief Operating Officer, Brandon Songy – Planner/Scheduler, and Cheri Soileau – Director of Planning, CATS, gave an informative presentation regarding bus routes and forthcoming micro-transit services in the City of Baker.

2. Discuss Louisiana state-local government opioid litigation settlement (Mayor)

The Mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled.

3. 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 she has done studies on how community gardens improve economic value. There are a number of cities all over the country that are participating in this movement and creative solutions are being employed to facilitate said gardens. She announced LaTonya Rounds, Holistic Ministry, 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, with another, more intense class, being offered at 7:10 p.m. Ms. Rounds also hosts virtual classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Council Member Bryant reminded everyone – if you see something, say something. She thanked the Police Department for their presence and increased visibility at the park on Trotter. Council Member Bryant spoke about the illegally parked blue food truck on Main Street, saying it takes away from the pride and integrity of the city. She said for some reason it is not being moved and is being allowed to conduct business. Council Member Bryant said there is an ordinance which says there should not be a food truck on Main Street, however, it remains parked there. She has received numerous complaints.

She said situations such as this one are detrimental to the City of Baker's economic development.

4. Recap of 2021 (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant gave a presentation highlighting the issues that were addressed and/or dealt with in District 3 in 2021. In addition to various humanitarian acts performed in 2021, Council Member Bryant addressed the well on Debra Drive and the City of Baker's water supply as they relate to the safety of Baker citizens, LSU's flood mitigation project, the long-term recovery plan and learning to live with water, problems with garbage pick-up and the service provided by Republic Services and most importantly, the responsibilities of the Baker City Council.

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

Council Member Bryant stressed the importance of communication and initiated discussion on how to best move forward successfully in 2022, asking for input from her colleagues.

Council Member Bryant recommended the City Council become more engaged with the finances of the City and how the money is being spent. She said this is a very important part of a council member's service to the community. She reiterated the importance of the monthly reports council members receive from various departments. She asked that questions be answered honestly and without rhetoric, solutions be found and that there be follow-up on behalf of the City so that the citizens of Baker know that whatever the issue is that it has been handled.

Council Member Dunn stated she would like to have shorter council meetings. She suggested council members contact and work with the Mayor to resolve issues prior to the council meetings.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Vincent asked that while people are traveling, if they see businesses, restaurants, hotels, anything that will improve the city, talk to those individual owners and open a dialogue with them moving forward in 2022, and beyond. He congratulated the Council Clerk on being named employee of the month. Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor and Public Works Department for filling holes and much needed dirt work throughout the city. He reminded everyone to take part in Council Member Vincent's Friendly Neighbor Keeper initiative every third Saturday of the month. Council Member Vincent stated a city-wide clean-up effort is being planned for later in the year.

Council Member Dunn congratulated the Council Clerk on being named employee of the month. She commended city employees for the work they've done at City Hall, saying everything looked great. Council Member Dunn thanked them for their efforts. She stated the owner of the food truck on Main Street is leasing the building and has the right to have the food truck parked there. She also said the owner of the food truck has a permit from the Health Department. Council Member Dunn said the food truck is located in her district and she has not received any complaints. She said she hopes the council can learn to work together and not fight one another in 2022. Council Member Dunn asked that everyone come together in order to build a better school system in the City of Baker.

Council Member Bryant asked that a wellness check be done at 4341 Burgess. She is concerned about the resident and their living conditions. She reported the streetlights on Groom Road at McHugh have been tagged, but the bulbs have not been replaced. Council Member Bryant asked about the status of the part needed to repair the street sweeper. The Mayor stated the part has not been received. She asked that respect and professionalism be maintained during discussion. Council Member Bryant asked who is responsible for picking up trash in non-residential areas, pointing out that the Public Works Department should be able to address this issue. She said keeping the city clean fosters a sense of pride in the community.

Council Member Jackson stated she will brainstorm on how to best move forward successfully in 2022, and share her thoughts with all her colleagues via email. She

reminded everyone that the Council Chamber has been open for council meetings since August 24, 2021, if they wish to attend in person.

Monique Butler, Sherron Avenue, expressed her concerns with the state of the city. As a life-long resident of Baker, Ms. Butler feels something must be done to stop the decline. She cited road repairs not being done, trash along thoroughfares, the lack of popular businesses and restaurants as examples of things that must be addressed and changed in order for Baker to become the city it once was. Ms. Butler said everyone must come together to accomplish this goal.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution in support of Baker public school system’s opposition to more charter schools in the City of Baker (Mayor)

The Mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled.

2. Proclamation declaring February 2022 African American History Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent read a portion of the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson 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 2022-1, sales & use tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/11/2022)
Public meeting was held.

Administrative Officer Angela Machen read the caption of Ordinance 2022-1.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt 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 said her reasons and position have been made clear and she wishes to abstain on all votes regarding the ordinances.

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Adopt Ordinance 2022-2, insurance license tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/11/2022)
Public meeting was held.

Administrative Officer Angela Machen read the caption of Ordinance 2022-2.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2022-2.

Council Member Vincent voted yes.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Young voted yes.

The Mayor said Council Member Jackson's statement regarding abstention is on the record.

Council Member Dunn said Council Member Jackson needs to vote yes or no.

Council Member Jackson reiterated the reasons for her abstention.

Council Member Jackson did not vote.

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

3. Adopt Ordinance 2022-3, occupational license tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/11/2022)
Public meeting was held.

Administrative Officer Angela Machen read the caption of Ordinance 2022-3.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt 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. Adopt Ordinance 2022-4, chain store license tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/11/2022)
Public meeting was held.

Administrative Officer Angela Machen read the caption of Ordinance 2022-4.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt 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. Adopt Ordinance 2022-5, alcoholic beverage tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/11/2022)
Public meeting was held.

Administrative Officer Angela Machen read the caption of Ordinance 2022-5.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt 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.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor asked that everyone continue to pray for the Dassau family.

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.

Council Member Bryant expressed her concerns regarding District 3's lack of representation on the City of Baker School Board at this time and said she plans to speak to them regarding this issue.

**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 25, 2022.

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 25, 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 25, 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 Commissioners Jackson/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 11, 2022.

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 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 for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on January 25, 2022.

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 25, 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 25, 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 Commissioner Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 11, 2022.

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 suggested residents carefully read their most recent utility bill, as it contains important information regarding sewer rates.

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 25, 2022.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council