

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3325 GROOM ROAD, BAKER, LOUISIANA 70714
ZOOM**

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March 22, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on March 22, 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 to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 8, 2022, with any additional changes.

Council Member Bryant stated she had changes to be made, something to be added to the minutes. She made a motion to add the following statements by the Mayor from the previous meeting: it's his meeting, it is his agenda, and when discussing adding items to the agenda – that was too much work.

Council Member Bryant seconded Council Member Vincent's motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 8, 2022, with the aforementioned changes.

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. Miranda Georgetown-Riley for the Rose Run an event to raise autism awareness (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent recognized Ms. Miranda Georgetown-Riley for her initiative and establishing the Rose Run, an event to raise autism awareness. Ms. Georgetown-Riley provided an overview of the Magnolia Rose Foundation for Autism Acceptance and the Rose Run. The 3K walk is scheduled for April 30, 2022, at City Hall Park beginning at 9:00 a.m. The event is free, and everyone is invited to participate. To register visit *eventbrite.com* and search for the Magnolia Rose Foundation.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve Business License Request – 2022-4
Little Dreamers Christian Academy
Location – 4345 Harding Street, Baker, Louisiana

The Mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled, as no representative from Little Dreamers Christian Academy was present.

2. Ratify plat for Sunshine Gardens subdivision (Mayor)

The Mayor asked that the Council move on to item number three, and return to this agenda item momentarily, as one of the participants was experiencing technical difficulties.

3. **Resubdivision Request:** McHugh Road, Baker, Louisiana
Owner: National Holy Trinity Baptist Fellowship Association, LLC
Name of Applicant: National Holy Trinity Baptist Fellowship Association, LLC
1700 McHugh Road
Baker, Louisiana 70714

Lot: 15-B-1

Subdivision: Wyatt Property

Property Currently Zoned: R-2

Proposed Use: Lot 15-B-1-A will be used as existing property use – church/worship. Lot 15-B-1-B usage is undetermined at this time. (Dunn)

Council Member Vincent stated he had a fine meeting with the pastor and membership, including the chairman of the deacon board, and visited the site to review exactly where they plan to subdivide. He said he was very pleased and fully supports their efforts.

Council Member Bryant said McHugh Road is in District 3. She said the agenda item is listed under Council Member Dunn’s name and Council Member Vincent is speaking on it. She stated she spoke with someone from the church regarding this issue and the possibility of a cemetery being placed on the site some time ago. She reiterated her concern was for the citizens and how they felt about it. She pointed out that tonight’s agenda states the proposed use of a portion of the property is undetermined at this time.

Discussion followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the resubdivision request for National Holy Trinity Baptist Fellowship Association, LLC.

Council Member Vincent voted yes.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant made a motion to abstain.

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

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.

Council Member Young voted yes.

Council Member Jackson voted no.

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

Ratify plat for Sunshine Gardens subdivision (Mayor)

The Mayor provided an update on the status of Sunshine Gardens subdivision.

Council Member Jackson expressed her concerns regarding the ratification of the plat for Sunshine Gardens subdivision. She said the plat submitted for ratification appears to be the plat previously submitted to the Council. She also stated the plat contains no information regarding sewer, streets, or other pertinent information. Council Member Jackson said the plat should contain more detail.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and ratify the plat for Sunshine Gardens subdivision.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

Council Member Jackson stated she voted no due to the reasons stated above.

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 – Police and Fire Departments.

C. To provide all neighborhoods with a sense of pride & integrity.

Council Member Bryant said new subdivisions and businesses are key to the City of Baker moving forward. She read the mission statement. Council Member Bryant said she just returned from Singapore where they had inside gardens, and this is something she may look at in the future for her community garden. She announced the Fire Department has free smoke detectors for residents who need them. Council Member Bryant said constituents in District 3 have reported an increase in speeding in the Baker Estates area. Lastly, Council Member Bryant commended the constituents of District 3 for the upkeep of their yards and the state of the neighborhoods, saying they have done a beautiful job.

Council Member Bryant provided an overview of the COVID-19 protocols utilized in Singapore.

2. Discuss traffic concerns exiting Chemin Place and Heritage Court subdivisions (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson said she was contacted by Ms. Jason on March 14, 2022, regarding traffic and safety concerns at the entrance/exit of Chemin Place subdivision. Council Member Jackson asked for input and cooperation from her colleagues so they may do everything possible to alleviate the traffic concern at this location. Council Member Jackson stated residents have expressed concerns regarding the entrance/exit of Heritage Court subdivision as well. There are issues that need to be addressed at both locations.

The Mayor agreed with the sentiments expressed by Ms. Jason and Council Member Jackson concerning the safety issue at the entrance/exit of Chemin Place and said he hopes to address this issue in the design meeting involving Groom Road scheduled for next week.

The Mayor said they will look at the bus stop/shelter near the entrance/exit of Heritage Court subdivision and speak to CATS.

Council Member Vincent asked that the bench located at the corner of Epperson Street and Groom Road be looked at, as it obstructs the view of eastbound traffic.

Council Member Bryant commended and thanked Ms. Jason, a constituent of District 3, for expressing her concerns and bringing this situation to the city's attention.

*Approve Business License Request – 2022-4
Little Dreamers Christian Academy
Location – 4345 Harding Street, Baker, Louisiana*
Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Dunn to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for Little Dreamers Christian Academy.

Council Member Vincent made a motion to abstain, saying he would like to look further into this issue.

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

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.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Young voted yes.

Council Member Jackson voted yes.

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Bryant initiated discussion concerning the City of Baker's checklist and procedure for obtaining a business license.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Willie Williams clarified the commission's practice of allowing applicants three chances to attend a Planning and Zoning meeting before being required to start the application process over.

Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor, his staff, the Baker Chamber of Commerce, Chief Dunn, Council Member Robert Young and everyone who participated and worked to make the Council Member Vincent's Friendly Neighbor Keeper city-wide event such a success. He reminded everyone to continue participating in the initiative every third Saturday of the month by picking up trash in neighborhoods, as well as throughout the city and surrounding areas.

Council Member Dunn thanked Council Member Vincent for a job well done with the clean-up effort. She congratulated the Mayor on being a part of trying to get funding for the Baker School System at the LMA conference in Washington, D.C. She asked that everyone keep supreme justice Jackson lifted up as she goes through her trial hearing. Council Member Dunn gave a shout out to the Southern University law students for a well-done job.

Council Member Bryant asked that the Council be informed when the business license for Little Dreamers Christian Academy is issued. She stated some people are confusing standing up for the rights of the citizens of Baker and the responsibilities of the Council with arguing. She also disagreed with the seeming rush to finish every council meeting. Council Member Bryant said council meetings are for handling the business of the city

and she feels the most effective way of resolving issues is to address them in an open forum. She feels two hours is a reasonable time to discuss the business of the city and ample time allows for hearing residents' voices, asking questions that need to be asked and getting answers – all of which will keep the city out of the news. Council Member Bryant said the business of the city should not be on a time clock.

Council Member Young began with the quote – “Leaders lift other leaders up.” He commended Council Member Vincent for doing a fabulous job with the city-wide clean-up. He said he and Chief Dunn plan to work with Council Member Vincent in an effort to do more at the next event. He said leaders are good followers, and he’s a great follower. Council Member Young commended Mayor Waites and Council Member Dunn for their work for the Baker School System. He announced Office Depot in Zachary is closing and advised anyone in need of office supplies to be sure and take advantage of their sale. Council Member Young announced he will be coaching the summer league 7th and 8th grade girls’ softball team. He asked for everyone’s prayers with this endeavor.

Council Member Jackson thanked District 5 residents for sharing and expressing their concerns, and said their support, cooperation and words of encouragement mean more than she can express at this time. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring April 2022 Alcohol 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 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.

2. Proclamation declaring April 2022 Autism 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 Bryant 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 2022-7, an ordinance to adopt Louisiana revised statutes relative to laws applicable to bicycle riders (Young) (Introduced 3/8/2022)

Council Member Young explained the reasoning behind the proposed ordinance and provided an overview of same.

City Attorney Fabre read a portion of the ordinance.

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2022-7.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

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)
12. 5804 Biscayne (Mayor)

Council Member Bryant asked if the city's boards had resumed meeting.

The Mayor said not yet, but they will likely start soon.

ANNEXATIONS

REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Council Member Dunn stated someone has purchased one of the condemned properties on Chamberlain.

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 – April 14 – 16, 2022. For more information go to www.cityofbakerla.com or contact Dianne Clay at (225) 778-0300. Council Member Jackson stated she will be unable to attend the festival this year, but she will be there in spirit.
 - b. Prayer Breakfast
 - c. Strategic Planning Committee
 - d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law
 - e. Main Street District Committee – Council Member Bryant asked if the Main Street District Committee had been established. The Mayor stated that it has not.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor announced the chlorination work at the well on Lavey Lane has been completed, and the work at the well on Mississippi Street will be completed soon. Work on the Groom Road well will begin once the work on the Mississippi Street well is done. He said the area around the Debra Drive well will be cleaned up.

The Mayor said the city is going to provide natural gas to the zoo.

The Mayor announced a gas pipe upgrade will be done on Lavey Lane. This will allow the city to provide gas service to Sunshine Gardens subdivision.

The Mayor provided an update on Millennial Park subdivision.

The Mayor provided an update on Workforce Development and its many offerings and programs.

The Mayor stated the long-term recovery plan is being implemented and goals are being achieved.

Regarding economic development in the city, Council Member Bryant asked if we are somewhere close to adding a new business to the City of Baker. The Mayor stated new businesses have been opened every year since he has taken office.

Council Member Dunn asked if the situation at the Baker Canal could be addressed with funds from the federal infrastructure bill. The Mayor said he spoke with Congressman Graves regarding this issue, and he hopes to have work done at the canal.

Council Member Dunn asked that sidewalks on Chamberlain Avenue be put back on the list. The Mayor said sidewalks are on the list for every district.

Council Member Bryant asked when the City Council will receive the next report from the audit. The Mayor said at the next council meeting.

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 March 22, 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
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
March 22, 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 March 22, 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 March 8, 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 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 March 22, 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
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
March 22, 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 March 22, 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 March 8, 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 asked about the survey that was included in recent utility bills. The survey originated with the Public Works Department and was used to gather information regarding the gas system.

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 March 22, 2022.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council