

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

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86032330393?pwd=R1d4OHVTL1JPajFZOVVmRlpmckhrZz09>

Passcode: 217106

Telephone Conference Call

Dial In: 646-558-8656

Webinar ID: 860 3233 0393

Passcode: 217106

June 14, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on June 14, 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 Vincent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Waites.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 24, 2022.

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 Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to add “Recognition of a special friend” under Recognitions 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

1. Recognize Robert Avriett for his volunteerism and willingness to help enhance our quality of life in Baker, Louisiana (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson recognized Robert Avriett for his volunteerism and willingness to help enhance our quality of life in Baker, Louisiana.

2. Recognize Michael Willis for his volunteerism and willingness to help enhance our quality of life in Baker, Louisiana (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson recognized Michael Willis for his volunteerism and willingness to help enhance our quality of life in Baker, Louisiana.

Recognize special friend (Young)

Council Member Young spoke about the important role mentorship has played in his life and said he has been fortunate to have fine individuals act as mentors in his life. He referenced *Coachable Beyond Winning Teams...To Changing Lives* the book written by a former mentor Bill Whittle and Dr. Denis Cauvier. Council Member Young surprised Mayor Waites by recognizing and thanking him for the mentoring he does and presented him with a copy of the book.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

- 1. **Resubdivision Request:** Chamberlain Avenue, Baker, Louisiana
Owner: Rochelle Dunn
Name of Applicant: Rochelle Dunn
2856 Groom Road
Baker, Louisiana 70714

Lot: C **Square:** 29

Subdivision: Leland College Annex

City of Baker, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

Create Lots: C-1 and C-2

Property Zoned: R-2 **Proposed Use:** Single-family residential

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to approve the resubdivision request for Rochelle Dunn.

Council Member Dunn stated she would abstain from voting on this matter.

Council Member Vincent withdrew his motion to approve the resubdivision request.

Council Member Young withdrew his second to approve the resubdivision request.

Vote was called for on withdrawing the motion and second to approve the resubdivision request.

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 Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to allow Council Member Dunn 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.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to approve the resubdivision request for Rochelle Dunn.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Dunn

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Jackson conveyed residents' concerns about the snowball stand recently moved/set up on Plank Road. She is aware the owners have applied for a business license and a favorable recommendation was forwarded to the City Council by the Planning and

Zoning Commission. However, they failed to appear at the council meeting on May 10, 2022. Approval for this business has not been granted.

The Mayor stated the owner does not have a business license and was not given permission to move the building to that location. He said the structure will be removed.

NEW BUSINESS

The Mayor provided an overview of the proposed budget.

1. Introduce Ordinance 2022-8, an ordinance to adopt the operating budget of general fund revenues and expenditures City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read the ordinance title.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2022-8.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2022-9, an ordinance to adopt the operating budget of special revenue funds revenues and expenditures City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read the ordinance title.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2022-9.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Introduce Ordinance 2022-10, an ordinance to adopt the capital budget and capital program of governmental funds City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read the ordinance title.

Council Member Bryant asked Finance Director Mary Sue Stages to give a general explanation of what a capital budget and a capital program of governmental funds are.

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages provided an explanation of both capital budget and capital program of governmental funds.

Council Member Young voted yes.

Council Member Jackson voted yes.

4. Introduce Ordinance 2022-11, an ordinance to adopt the budget of utility fund revenues, expenditures and capital improvements City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read the ordinance title.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2022-11.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

5. Introduce Ordinance 2022-12, an ordinance to adopt the budget of cemetery fund revenues, expenditures and capital improvements City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read the ordinance title.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2022-12.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

6. Introduce Ordinance 2022-13, an ordinance to adopt the budget of sewer revenue fund revenues, expenditures and capital improvements City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read the ordinance title.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2022-13.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Bryant asked for an explanation of the reduction in sewer rates. Notice of the reduction was included in recent utility bills. Finance Director Mary Sue Stages stated the reduction was due to an anticipated increase in households in the City of Baker. Council Member Bryant stated where the budget and city finances are concerned, the city's auditor and City Council can only go by the information they are given.

7. Approval for selection of The Advocate for Official Municipal Journal for fiscal year 2022-2023 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to approve the selection of The Advocate for Official Municipal Journal for fiscal year 2022-2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

8. City of Baker housing strategy (Mayor)

The Mayor presented the City of Baker housing strategy and provided detailed information regarding the city's long-term goals and vision for the future.

Discussion followed.

9. 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 read the mission statement. She said it's a shame the city does not currently have an active community garden. Given the increased cost of living it would be nice for residents to have access to a garden. Council Member Bryant announced Zumba classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. at the gym on Alabama Street and said they provide an opportunity to exercise as well as bond with others in the community. She said District 3 is taking back its streets. Residents are

helping the police department by reporting speeding and those doing it. They are using their security cameras to record vehicles and license plate numbers and contacting the police department. Council Member Bryant asked the Fire Chief if the city has any burn restrictions because of the draught. Chief Pease stated residents are required to get a burn permit in order to burn in the City of Baker. Council Member Bryant thanked the Public Works Department for cleaning the ditches in District 3. She reported high grass on Wimbish and that the hole near the sidewalk is still there in front of 2415 McHugh Road. The house is overgrown at this address as well. Council Member Bryant stated she would like to create a list of neglected properties with the hope of motivating the owners of listed properties to act, resulting in a positive impact on neighborhoods and the community at large.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Denise Stevenson, 717 Sherron, expressed her concerns regarding speeding in her neighborhood.

Deborah Harris, 610 Sherron, suggested installing speed bumps, flashing speed signs, or children at play signs as possible solutions to address the speeding problem in her neighborhood.

LaQuite Herbert, 621 Sherron, asked about the possibility of having a license plate reader installed in an effort to address the speeding issue.

Police Chief Dunn said his department is writing more tickets and it is working. He encouraged everyone to continue contacting the police department with any information they may have, saying it is not only useful but also greatly appreciated.

Michael Willis announced the Heritage Court Neighborhood Watch meeting is being held Saturday, July 16, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Baker Branch Library. He invited the Mayor and City Council members to attend.

Council Member Dunn stated speeding is an issue in her district as well and initiated discussion regarding the installation of speed bumps in the City of Baker.

Rilei Douglas read her beautiful statement which thanked Council Member Young for inviting her to attend the Respect Program at the Baker Church of the Nazarene. Her comments detailed all she has learned and experienced as a participant in the program.

Council Member Young spoke about mentorship, being a part of the community and doing for the children. He said since becoming familiar with the Respect Program he has reached out to kids throughout the City of Baker and surrounding communities so that they might have an opportunity to participate in this fantastic program. The group meets every Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Baker Church of the Nazarene on Groom Road.

Ikeal Davenport, 3341 Chamberlain, said he spoke with the Fire Chief and was told the city's current fire rating is a three. Mr. Davenport asked that the Mayor and City Council do all they can to work with Chief Pease and the fire department in an effort to raise the city's fire rating.

Discussion regarding the city's fire rating followed.

Council Member Vincent congratulated and thanked the Mayor and CATS board member Linda Perkins on the newly initiated LYNX program. He thanked the Mayor and Public Works Department for cutting the grass and reminded them to not forget Thomas Road. Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor and Public Works Department for the clean-up on Morvant and asked that the limbs on Wedgewood be removed by the trash truck on Friday. He said he was contacted by a fellow member of an organization he belongs to regarding assisting the Jones family and asked everyone to consider helping this Baker family that has three sets of twins.

Council Member Dunn thanked the Mayor for the CATS ride program. She said the city needs to make sure elderly people in the community are not only aware of the program but know how to access the program as well. Council Member Dunn invited families to bring their children to be a part of the Respect Program. She said city officials are here to serve and she is willing to work in any district in order to assist residents who need help. She said she wants to help the family with the three sets of twins. Council Member Dunn announced the Jones residence on Chamberlain has been completed and they are preparing to move in. She said she has worked tirelessly on this project and thanked her family and friends for their support.

Council Member Bryant thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She expressed her concerns and initiated discussion regarding economic development and communication between the city and residents. She stated economic development in the city is not progressing as fast as she'd like. She acknowledged long-term goals and plans but asked about goals that could be achieved in one to three years, something more immediate. It is her belief that when a business leaves another business should come in to replace it. Council Member Bryant said communication needs to be expanded and the city needs to employ other methods of communication with the community. She agrees that small businesses are vital components of a city's economy but feels the city needs viability. She said it is not enough that small businesses come to Baker, they must open and stay. Council Member Bryant reiterated the importance of believing in yourself, saying the City of Baker should never underestimate itself and what it's capable of.

Council Member Young stated he is a promoter and spoke about the newly established LYNX program, saying it is a blessing. He pointed out there are lots of good things happening in Baker. He reported he has had many speaking engagements recently, mainly with children, and he feels if he can connect with or save just one child, he's won. Council Member Young thanked the Mayor for allowing him to speak to the sophomores and juniors at Baker High School. He said he agrees that speeding is a problem in the city, but so are guns. He said there are guns all over the City of Baker, in every district and neighborhood. He recognized Chief Dunn and his officers for their work and for removing these guns from the community.

Council Member Jackson asked Chief Pease to email her information on what council members can do to assist with raising the city's fire rating. She thanked LaQuite Herbert, Denise Stevenson and Deborah Harris for expressing their concerns. She assured her constituents that she will continue to ride District 5 and asked that they continue to contact her with their concerns at (225) 773-7950. Council Member Jackson thanked Mr. Avriett and Mr. Willis for the job they do keeping her informed. She also thanked the payroll department for honoring her request and keeping her pay the same. She said she will be sending them an email requesting that they continue to do so.

Council Member Dunn challenged her colleagues to work with the economic development director and one another in an effort to unify and bring new businesses to the city. She said this is the only way the city is going to progress – everyone must work together. Council Member Bryant said she is glad Council Member Dunn addressed this, stating she has submitted ideas for businesses, including names, addresses and contact information to the economic development director in the past.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring June 2022 Juneteenth 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.

2. Proclamation declaring June 2022 Cataract 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

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)
13. 14235 Blairstown (Mayor)
14. 2845 Groom Road (Mayor)
15. 1302 Hazeloak (Mayor)

The Mayor asked the Council to vote to allow the city to demolish the structures at 14235 Blairstown and 1302 Hazeloak.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to demolish the structures at 14235 Blairstown and 1302 Hazeloak.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The Mayor stated the structures at 1556 Alabama and 1832 Florida are set to be demolished, and the addresses on Chamberlain are on hold, as someone has purchased

that property. He said 2845 Groom Road will be addressed next and that they need an update on the property located at 5804 Biscayne.

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

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 June 14, 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
June 14, 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 June 14, 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 Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 24, 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

Niketa King submitted a monthly sales report for May 2022.

The motion was made by Commissioner Dunn, seconded by Commissioner Waites to accept the sales report submitted for May 2022.

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 Dunn, seconded by Commissioner Bryant 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 June 14, 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
June 14, 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 June 14, 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 Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 24, 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 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 June 14, 2022.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council