

**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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May 24, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on May 24, 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 Young.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 10, 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 Vincent to add “City Attorney to address allegations made to the media pertaining to the Mayor’s pay raise budget 21-22 that it was illegal” 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

City Attorney to address allegations made to the media pertaining to the Mayor’s pay raise budget 21-22 that it was illegal (Young)

City Attorney Fabre addressed the allegations made to the media pertaining to the Mayor’s pay raise budget 21-22 that it was illegal.

Discussion followed.

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 read the mission statement. She announced June 3, 2022, is National Gun Violence Awareness Day, everyone is asked to wear orange. She invited everyone to participate and show support for this nationwide awareness day. Council Member Bryant said a sense of pride and integrity involves everyone. She said it is imperative that people work together and respect one another, even if they disagree or have a difference of opinion. She said unity is often discussed, but you cannot have unity if you constantly seek to divide. Council Member Bryant reiterated everyone is entitled to their opinions and that unity can only be achieved when laws are applied to everyone.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2022-6, City of Baker food trucks and rolling vendors business permits and licensing requirements and to provide for other matters regarding to the same (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn gave a presentation on food trucks in the City of Baker. She spoke about the proposed ordinance and what change could mean for the community as well.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2022-6.

YEAS: Dunn, Young
NAYS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion failed with a vote of 2-3.

Ordinance 2022-6 was not introduced.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. 2022 redistricting resolution (Jackson)

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson to adopt the resolution.

For clarification purposes, Council Member Jackson verified the districts referenced in the resolution would be in effect following the election in 2024.

Council Member Dunn seconded the motion made by Council Member Jackson to adopt the resolution.

Council Member Vincent stated he is unable to look at the resolution and he would like to be able to see the language before voting. Therefore, he said he wanted to abstain from voting at this time.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to allow Council Member Vincent to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Vincent abstained.

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.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Vera Daniels, 201 Charles, expressed her concerns regarding the drainage on Sherron Avenue from Lavey Lane to Myrtle Street and along Lavey Lane between Sherron Avenue and Charles Avenue.

The Mayor said they are working on this issue. However, they've not been able to determine what is causing the blockage.

Council Member Jackson stated she had a constituent contact her regarding the drainage on Lavey Lane at Plank Road as well.

Harry Horton, 13309 Brant, expressed his concerns regarding blight court and its frequency, and asked when it is to be held next. He said with the amount of blight in the city, it should be held once a week, not every other month or once a quarter. Mr. Horton also asked about the city now having two Code Enforcement Officers.

The Mayor stated blight court is scheduled for July 14, 2022. He explained the second Code Enforcement Officer has been brought in to address activity that occurs in the evening. He said there are serious problems with dumping that goes on at nighttime.

Maxine Scott McKinney, 802 Balm, thanked the Mayor and Council Member Young for assisting her with the overgrowth of grass behind her fence. She said she contacted her council representative and did not receive a response. Ms. McKinney said she has been here since 1989 and Baker is not growing. She said she doesn't understand this and if we can get more businesses in our area that is tax dollars Baker can use for improvement.

Thomas Bennett asked for an explanation of the benefits referenced in the handout regarding the Mayor's pay raise. Mr. Bennett stated in politics it's not about what you do, it's about perception and initiated discussion regarding the Mayor's pay raise. He expressed his concerns about a number of issues in the city, including the fact that Baker High School has not been reopened, the Workforce Development building is padlocked, trucks parking around Miracle Place Church, and commercial parking lots that are in disrepair. He reiterated the importance of perception and said growth should be the city's main focus.

Council Member Vincent commended the Mayor and his staff on the appearance of the Reverend Charles Heine park on Main Street. He said we still have work to do as far as upkeep and appearances at businesses throughout the city is concerned. Council Member Vincent reminded everyone to take part in Council Member Vincent's Friendly Neighbor Keeper initiative every third Saturday of the month. He said a city-wide clean-up effort is being planned for June. He said the Baker Economic Development District and Convention Center along Plank Road has tentatively scheduled a charrette for the first week of June. Council Member Vincent thanked everyone who is working to keep the city clean and facilitate growth and development in our community.

Council Member Dunn reported they have not heard from either Dr. Cole or Pastor Brown regarding their request to expand the community garden. She said Mr. Tate will be harvesting there, but it is not the community garden, it is his crop. Council Member Dunn said they are working to establish another community garden at the church near the railroad tracks. She stated the food truck in District 3, at the corner of Baker Boulevard and McHugh Road, is there every day.

Council Member Bryant thanked Dr. Perry for extending an invitation to the Baker City Council to attend the Baker High School graduation ceremony. She announced Ozark Insurance has closed and is moving to Zachary. She asked that the Public Works Department place a “No Dumping” sign near the ditch on Greenwood Lane. She reported that nothing has been done with the hole near the sidewalk in the 2400 block of McHugh Road, despite the issue having been discussed for months. She asked that the grass on Wimbish be cut as well. Council Member Bryant suggested contacting City Parish about having more culverts placed along Groom Road to alleviate flooding. She stated she believes in doing things by the book and that everyone should be held accountable for their actions. She said there are many things that need to be done in the city in order for growth and development to occur. Council Member Bryant stated she is a public servant, and her goal is to see the city move forward in a positive manner.

The Mayor stated MOVEBR has a design in place for Groom Road and work should start early next year.

Council Member Young said council members have to know what their job is. He said it is not just the Mayor’s responsibility to bring new businesses to Baker, everyone has a role to play. Council Member Young maintains the lack of support for new subdivisions is a contributing factor as to why businesses are reluctant to come to the City of Baker. Council Member Young admonished the 5% who consistently perpetuate negativity throughout the community and attack every effort made to facilitate growth and development. He said city leaders have got to respect one another. Council Member Young stated the youth program at the Church of the Nazarene is outstanding, activities are held on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. He said the athletic banquet honoring kids from all over the Baker community held last night was great. Council Member Young said we have to find ways to engage our kids over the summer and suggested participating in the numerous programs available throughout the area.

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 Jackson stated she had a constituent contact her with a concern about two telephone poles that are connected near Park Plaza Apartments at the corner of Groom Road and Sherron Avenue. She asked that City Hall be pressure washed and cleaned up. Council Member Jackson asked the Mayor if a portion of the infrastructure funds could be used to address the drainage issues in Parc Chaleur subdivision. She announced Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wisham welcomed baby girl Elaina Grace Wisham, 7 pounds 12 ounces, earlier today. Council Member Jackson asked to speak with Ms. McKinney after the meeting.

2. Proclamation declaring June 2022 Alzheimer’s and Brain 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.

3. Proclamation declaring June 2022 National Safety 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.

PUBLIC MEETING

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Appoint Marguerite L. Mack to the Planning and Zoning Commission (Mayor)
The Mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled.

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 stated the properties discussed at the previous council meeting will be demolished.

Council Member Vincent asked about the structure at 14235 Blairstown. The Mayor assured him the structure will be removed.

ANNEXATIONS

The Mayor said they met with the Parish Attorney regarding annexing properties with a 70714 address in unincorporated areas.

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 – Event will be held June 24, 2022. Senator Regina Barrow is the guest speaker. Tickets are \$6.00.
 - c. Strategic Planning Committee
 - d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law
 - e. Main Street District Committee

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor announced a job fair is being held Thursday, May 26, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium.

The Mayor announced the Baker Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual member crawfish boil Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

The Mayor announced CATS micro-transit is here.

The Mayor said the Veterans symposium held last week was a success.

The Mayor stated Workforce Development is hosting BR STEM on Saturdays and currently offering pipe fitting classes as well.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Members Jackson/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 May 24, 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
May 24, 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 May 24, 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 Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 10, 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 May 24, 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
May 24, 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 May 24, 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/Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 10, 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

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to accept the Utility Fund report.

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 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 May 24, 2022.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council