

**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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June 28, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on June 28, 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 Young.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Bryant.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Members Dunn/Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 14, 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 Jackson to add “Louis and Rosella Jones” 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. *Louis and Rosella Jones (Young)*

Council Member Young congratulated Council Member Dunn for her role in having the Jones residence rebuilt. He recognized her for her hard work and determination, saying she has raised the bar for public service.

Ms. Hamilton, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jones, presented Council Member Dunn, Police Chief Carl Dunn, and Mayor Waites certificates on behalf of the entire family recognizing them for all they have done for Louis and Rosella Jones.

The Mayor recognized Council Member Dunn for her tireless efforts, persistence and dedication to the Jones family and the Baker community. He cited her as an example of what a public servant should be.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve Business License Request – 2022-10
Michael Ransome
Best Choice Roofing Louisiana, LLC
Location – 2944 Ray Weiland 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 Best Choice Roofing Louisiana, 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 – 2022-11
Vikki Lee Wilbon
Rosebud Training Academy
Location – 3207 Lavey Lane, Baker, Louisiana

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for Rosebud Training Academy.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2022-14, an ordinance to rename the cemetery in honor of Norman E. “Pete” Heine (Mayor)

The Mayor asked the City Council to support renaming the cemetery in honor of former Mayor Norman E. “Pete” Heine.

Council Member Jackson stated she would like to speak with Mr. Heine regarding this matter. She suggested the possibility of naming something else in the city for the former mayor and council member.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2022-14.

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 would like to abstain from voting until she has had a chance to speak with Mr. Heine regarding this matter.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent to allow Council Member Jackson 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.

Council Member Jackson abstained.

The motion to introduce Ordinance 2022-14, an ordinance to rename the cemetery in honor of Norman E. "Pete" Heine passed with a vote of 4-0.

The Mayor announced City Park will be renamed Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park and signs with the new name will be put up as soon as they are purchased. The name of the park was officially changed in 2016.

2. 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. Council Member Bryant announced Zumba classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. at the gym on Alabama Street and virtual classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She stated as prices increase and people face hardships due to inflation, the city needs a community garden. Council Member Bryant said she spoke with Chief Pease regarding the city's fire rating and the Fire Department currently has no need for assistance with this matter. She asked Police Chief Dunn for an update on Louisiana gun laws. He stated no permit is required for open carry however, you must have a permit for concealed carry. Council Member Bryant reiterated the need to inform new residents about the city's ordinances, saying those who know better do better. She again suggested landlords include this information in their rental/lease agreements. Council Member Bryant said junk vehicles take away from the neatness and appearance of the neighborhood and stated she is all for raising the standard of living in the City of Baker.

3. 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.

4. Announce President and Vice-President of the Baker City Council for 2022-2023 (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson announced that her term as President of the Baker City Council will end on June 30, 2022. Council Member Glenda Bryant will serve as the next Council President, serving July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

Council Member Bryant said she is excited to serve as City Council President and thanked current Council President Council Member Jackson for her service. Council Member Bryant announced Council Member Young will serve as Vice President of the Baker City Council for the term beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Nancy Thomas, 1006 Main Street, stated she is so excited the council voted no on introducing the food truck ordinance, because that means she can still operate.

Ikeal Davenport, 3341 Chamberlain, expressed his concerns regarding the proposed transfer of juvenile delinquents from New Orleans to the facility located at the corner of Groom Road and Scenic Highway. He said relocating these individuals here poses a threat not only to the City of Baker but to the surrounding communities as well. He asked if city leaders and local law enforcement have plans in place to deal with this situation.

The Mayor suggested Mr. Davenport address his concerns to the City of Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council, as that property is not in the city limits of Baker. The Mayor stated he has voiced his concerns to city officials in Baton Rouge.

Council Member Bryant stated this situation is an example of why the city needs to focus on annexation, saying she has always stressed the importance of annexation and city leaders having a say in what comes to the city. Council Member Bryant reiterated the importance of economic development.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Vincent said he has received a number of calls about how deplorable the city looks and expressed his extreme displeasure with the situation. He said while there has been some improvement, the situation remains disheartening. He said we can and must do better. He asked that people remain vigilant and continue to pick up trash whenever and wherever they are able. He said residents must take pride in their city. Council Member Vincent announced the Lions club and other organizations plan to assist the Jones family, who have been blessed with three sets of twins, and asked that anyone interested in helping contact him. He said the Baker Economic Development District and Convention Center along Plank Road has scheduled a charrette for Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium. Council Member Vincent thanked everyone who is working to keep the city clean and facilitate growth and development in our community.

Council Member Dunn thanked Council Member Vincent for his hard work and dedication to the community. Council Member Dunn stated she was not pleased with BREC's summer camps this year. She said Baker children are being transported to either Alsen or Scotlandville. Council Member Dunn feels the City of Baker needs a community center for the children, so they have a place to go to for tutoring, after school programs, and camp in the summertime. She challenged her colleagues to identify a single project to work on together and suggested a community center as such a project. Council Member Dunn said differences must be set aside in order to meet the goal, but with determination and persistence, the goal can be met. She said city leaders must welcome, encourage, and be grateful for businesses that locate here. Council Member Dunn reminded residents they are responsible for maintaining their property and stated she would like to see speed bumps installed in District 2.

Council Member Bryant stated all the improvements we want done in the city depend on economic development and how we look as a community. She feels success will be achieved by having a mix of small businesses, home-based businesses and larger corporations operating in the city. She said the city can attract large corporations to come here, citing the large retiree community here as an example of a means of support for such businesses. Council Member Bryant said it's not about economics, it's about a thought pattern – that we can, and we will do it no matter what. She said communication and respect for one another's views and opinions are vital to moving the city forward. Council Member Bryant encouraged anyone applying for a business license to follow the procedures set forth in the city's Code of Ordinances regulating such matters. She asked that debris removal, ditch maintenance and ants in the cemetery be addressed. Council Member Bryant stated ultimately, her concern, her passion, is for the citizens of Baker.

Council Member Young commended Council Member Vincent for the work he is doing and suggested they get together in order to work on trash in commercial parking lots. He

thanked everyone for the invitation to attend the Juneteenth celebration and said he had a wonderful time.

Council Member Jackson assured Council Member Vincent that she will post the flyer concerning the charette scheduled for June 30, 2022 on her Facebook page and adjust her schedule so that she can attend the event. She stated she believes in effective communication. Council Member Jackson asked if the funds from the Baker Buffalo Festival have been distributed. The Mayor stated they will be distributed this week. Council Member Jackson asked for an update on the public records request made by Representative Barbara Carpenter. The Mayor stated she was given everything she asked for in the request. Council Member Jackson handed out a copy of the public records request submitted by Representative Carpenter. Council Member Jackson said she enjoyed serving and reminded everyone her term as city council president will end on June 30, 2022.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring July 2022 Cord Blood Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent 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 2022-8, an ordinance to adopt the operating budget of general fund revenues and expenditures City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 (Mayor) (Introduced 6/14/2022)

Public meeting was held.

Council Member Jackson said she received an email this afternoon with attachments from Finance Director Mary Sue Stages. She stated she believes in effective communication and that because this information was not received in a timely manner, she would like to abstain from voting on the budget ordinances. She said she would like time to thoroughly review all of the information.

Council Member Bryant asked Finance Director Mary Sue Stages which ordinance contained administrative pay raises. Ms. Stages stated administrative pay raises are included in the general fund.

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

Council Member Vincent voted yes.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant voted no.

Council Member Young voted yes.

Council Member Jackson abstained.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Bryant to allow Council Member Jackson to abstain from voting on the budget ordinances.

Council Member Vincent voted yes.

Council Member Dunn asked for the reason Council Member Jackson wished to abstain.

Council Member Jackson stated she provided the reason for her abstention earlier and reiterated she likes to have her communication in a timely manner.

Discussion regarding Council Member Jackson's request to abstain followed.

Council Member Dunn voted no.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Young voted yes.

The motion to allow Council Member Jackson to abstain from voting on the budget ordinances passed with a vote of 3-1.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-8 passed with a vote of 3-1.

2. Adopt 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) (Introduced 6/14/2022)

Public meeting was held.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Jackson

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

3. Adopt 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) (Introduced 6/14/2022)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2022-10.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Jackson

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

4. Adopt 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) (Introduced 6/14/2022)

Public meeting was held.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Jackson

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

5. Adopt 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) (Introduced 6/14/2022)

Public meeting was held.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Jackson

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

6. Adopt 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) (Introduced 6/14/2022)

Public meeting was held.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Jackson

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

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

Council Member Bryant asked that a representative from every district be placed on each of the committees.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor stated the city gave Representative Carpenter everything she asked for in her public records request and that a copy of what she was sent was given to each council member.

Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor, Ms. Dianne Clay, and all his staff for a wonderful prayer breakfast.

Council Member Dunn thanked everyone for a wonderful prayer breakfast as well.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn 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 28, 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 28, 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 28, 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 June 14, 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 for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on June 28, 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 28, 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 28, 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 June 14, 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 Commissioners Dunn/Vincent to accept the Sewer Revenue Fund report and 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.

Discussion regarding reports submitted to the Baker Consolidated Utilities System Board of Commissioners followed.

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 28, 2022.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council