

**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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Dial In: 646-558-8656

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July 12, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on July 12, 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 Pastor Gretha Alexander.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Waites.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 28, 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 Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to add Sandra Hally 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 Sandra Hally for four years of freedom from domestic violence (Bryant) Council Member Bryant asked that this matter be addressed once Ms. Hally arrived.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve Business License Request – 2022-12

Darius Oneal Jackson

Desire Seafood, LLC

Location – 413 Cypress Drive, Baker, Louisiana

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Drew Cotten, PEC, to give presentation regarding the MoveBR Groom Road project (Mayor)

Drew Cotten, PEC, provided an overview of the proposed MoveBR Groom Road project.

Recognize Sandra Hally for four years of freedom from domestic violence (Bryant)
Council Member Bryant recognized and celebrated Sandra Hally for her four years of freedom from domestic violence. Council Member Bryant said Ms. Hally will also be recognized at the Legend Awards in October.

2. Joshua Stutes, DOTD, to give presentation regarding Lavey Lane (Mayor)
Joshua Stutes, DOTD, gave a presentation regarding the transfer of Lavey Lane from the State of Louisiana to the City of Baker, future maintenance of the roadway, and the overall vision for one of the city’s major thoroughfares.

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 – 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 provided a list of various locations/organizations that function as food sources for those in need in the Baker community. She suggested contacting the Food Bank, so they might come to the city as well. She 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 your neighbors. Council Member Bryant thanked the police department for their outstanding service on July 4th. She reminded everyone hurricane season is here, and it is important to keep all ditches and drainage clear of debris. She reiterated the importance of having carbon monoxide detectors in homes using generators during power outages. Council Member Bryant asked Chief Pease if every business in the city has been inspected by the Fire Department. Chief Pease stated every business in the city goes through a pre-fire plan inspection and fire safety code inspection once a year. She asked for an update on the situation at the house on McHugh Road which was overrun with squatters. The Mayor stated they have been removed.

4. Appointment of auditor for 2022-2023 fiscal year (Vincent)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to appoint Bruno & Tervalon LLP as City Auditor for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ikeal Davenport, 3341 Chamberlain, asked Chief Pease to elaborate on what “water” meant in relation to improving the city’s fire rating. He also asked if the city’s fire department has an adequate number of firemen. Chief Pease said the work being done at the well on Mississippi Street and the proposed water well on Groom Road will resolve any “water” issues affecting the city’s fire rating. He also stated the Mayor has allowed the fire department to hire three new firefighters.

Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor and his staff for cutting the ditches and asked that they not forget Thomas Road.

Council Member Dunn announced a work session on issues facing today’s youth is being held Saturday, July 16, 2022 at Shady Grove 1st Missionary Baptist Church located at 16443 Plank Road from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Council Member Bryant asked that the overgrown lots in District 3, many of which have been reported previously, be cut. She asked when blight court would be held. The Mayor said July 14, 2022. Council Member Bryant again reported that the ditch across the street from Park Ridge Academic Magnet School on Groom Road is overgrown. She reported that the hole next to the sidewalk near 2415 McHugh Road has still not been repaired. Council Member Bryant encouraged everyone to participate in the LYNX program and reminded them that the service is free through the month of July. She thanked Pastor Alexander for giving the invocation at tonight's meeting. She asked the Mayor again to have the area around the well on Debra cleaned up, saying it looks like a junk yard. Council Member Bryant stated there are a lot of streetlights out all over the city, and this is another of the many issues that are continually talked about and seemingly never resolved.

Council Member Young thanked Linda Perkins, CATS board member, for her quick response to the reporting of issues. He expressed his concerns regarding businesses cutting their grass and blowing the clippings into the street. Council Member Young stated as he rides his bicycle at night, if he sees a streetlight that is out, he makes a note of the address and reports the outage.

Council Member Jackson reported that burning is taking place at 5414 Lavey Lane. She thanked the homeowners of Meadows of Chaleur for inviting her to their meeting on Saturday, July 9, 2022. She said she was also very grateful to be able to attend the City of Baker recreation event held at Jefferson Street park. She thanked Senator Regina Barrow and Representative Barbara Carpenter for hosting the District 15 community meeting last night.

Council Member Dunn asked that everyone pray for Chief Dunn and his family.

The Mayor said the LYNX program has been successful so far.

The Mayor provided an overview of COBRA – City of Baker Recreation Association.

The Mayor reminded everyone that if a contractor cuts down a tree on your property, you are responsible for having the debris removed.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring July 2022 Flood Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Mayor)

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 July 2022 Healthy Vision 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

1. Adopt Ordinance 2022-14, an ordinance to rename the cemetery in honor of Norman E. "Pete" Heine (Mayor) (Introduced 6/28/2022)
The Mayor asked that this item be removed from the agenda.

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

1. 1556 Alabama (Mayor)
2. 1832 Florida (Mayor)
The Mayor stated this property is scheduled for demolition.
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)
Council Member Bryant stated she has been in contact with the owner, and they are working to improve the property.
9. 4451 Baker Boulevard (Bryant)
10. 4509 Baker Boulevard (Bryant)
11. 2116 E. Azalea (Dunn)
12. 5804 Biscayne (Mayor)
The Mayor stated the city will send one more letter to the owner of this property.
13. 14235 Blairstown (Mayor)
The Mayor stated this property is scheduled for demolition.
14. 2845 Groom Road (Mayor)
15. 1302 Hazeloak (Mayor)
The Mayor stated this property is scheduled for demolition.

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

Council Member Dunn congratulated the Mayor's secretary Ashley Williams on being named Employee of the Month.

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 July 12, 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
July 12, 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 July 12, 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 Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 28, 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 and June 2022.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioners Dunn/Vincent to accept the sales reports submitted for May 2022 and June 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 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 July 12, 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
July 12, 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 July 12, 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 28, 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 Dunn, seconded by Commissioner Waites 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 July 12, 2022.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council