

**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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August 9, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on August 9, 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 Larry Alexander.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Young.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to add Denise Muldrew 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.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 26, 2022.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. *Recognize Denise Muldrew for her heroism (Young)*

Council Member Young recognized Denise Muldrew, a driver for Republic Services, for her heroism.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve Business License Request – 2022-13

Michael L. Kimbrell

Commercial Tire Group, LLC

Location – 13950 Plank Road, Baker, Louisiana

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for Commercial Tire Group, 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 – 2022-14
Meltus Dike
Ponderosa Garden, LLC
Location – 3010 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 override the unfavorable recommendation made by the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for Ponderosa Garden, LLC.

YEAS: None

NAYS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion failed with a vote of 0-5.

3. Approve Business License Request – 2022-15
Jameyelle Jack
The Culture Goddess, LLC
Location – 1434 Main Street, Suite A, 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 The Culture Goddess, LLC.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Approve Business License Request – 2022-16
Ahad Shafiq
Sky High on Groom, LLC
Location – 6404 Groom Road, Suite D, Baker, Louisiana

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to override the unfavorable recommendation made by the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for Sky High on Groom, LLC.

Council Member Vincent voted no.

Council Member Dunn voted no.

Council Member Bryant voted no.

Council Member Young voted no.

Council Member Jackson stated she would abstain from voting on this agenda item.

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 from voting on overriding the unfavorable recommendation made by the Planning and Zoning Commission and approving the business license request for Sky High on Groom, LLC.

The motion failed with a vote of 0-4.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2022-15, property tax 5.760 mills (Mayor)

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages provided an explanation of the proposed ordinance.

Discussion regarding millage, disbursement of millage taxes collected, and how these funds are utilized by the City of Baker followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2022-15.

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 abstain from voting on this agenda item, saying she believes in following rules and procedures.

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

Council Member Vincent voted yes to allow Council Member Jackson to abstain.

Council Member Dunn voted no on allowing Council Member Jackson to abstain.

Discussion regarding abstentions followed.

Council Member Dunn voted no on allowing Council Member Jackson to abstain, saying the Mayor's name being associated with the agenda item is no reason to not vote.

Council Member Bryant voted yes to allow Council Member Jackson to abstain, saying all council members have the right to abstain and to be treated with respect.

Council Member Young voted no on allowing Council Member Jackson to abstain.

Council Member Jackson voted yes to allow her abstention.

The motion to allow Council Member Jackson to abstain passed with a vote of 3-2.

Council Member Jackson abstained from voting on the introduction of Ordinance 2022-15.

The motion to introduce Ordinance 2022-15 passed with a vote of 4-0.

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 they are ready to start on the community garden and asked for volunteers to assist in preparing the site for planting. She stated exercise classes are held regularly at the gym on Alabama Street. Council Member Bryant reminded everyone we are in the middle of hurricane season and suggested that residents take pictures of the items in their homes. She said these photos are invaluable in assisting with filing claims should residents suffer a property loss. Council Member Bryant said she is looking forward to being able to use the city's street sweeper, as this equipment would help keep the city's streets clean and facilitate debris removal. She stated she asked about the street sweeper a year and a half ago and was told the city was waiting on a part.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Vincent announced September is Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Month and asked for the city's participation in an effort being put together by the Lions Club – a blood drive scheduled for Friday, September 2, 2022, at the Baker Branch Library from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. He announced Ryan's Run will be held Saturday, September 3, 2022. Council Member Vincent asked everyone to consider donating blood for this worthy cause. He thanked the Mayor and his staff for cutting the ditches and reminded them to not forget Thomas Road. Council Member Vincent thanked the business on Main Street for removing the tires from their property. He reminded residents and business owners that this is their city and encouraged them to continue doing all they can to keep their property up. He reminded everyone of the importance of taking pride in their city and thanked everyone for all they do in an effort to keep Baker beautiful.

Council Member Dunn said she enjoyed the recent LMA conference, and she learned a lot, most importantly was that to be a leader, you have to learn how to follow. She said she is praying that the Baker City Council can come on one accord. Council Member Dunn stated people have to put their differences aside, come together and unite in order to grow the City of Baker. She said she spoke with BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson about summer camps and a recreation center for the children in our community. Council Member Dun reiterated the importance of the council learning to work together and doing what needs to be done for their constituents. She said the city's leaders must be unified – not divided.

Council Member Bryant stated being on one accord does not mean you always have to agree, she said it is about respect and serving your community. She said she has no problem with any individual. She said she has a problem with evil – she does not like lies, manipulation, deception, and corruption. Council Member Bryant stated she will not be a part of it, will not represent herself with it or align with it.

Council Member Young said the LMA conference was good, and he was able to spend a lot of time with the Mayor. This time spent afforded him the opportunity to see how much respect the Mayor received from others from all over the state. Council Member Young stated the conference allowed him to learn from those around him, something that is paramount when trying to better yourself personally and professionally. He commended those who regularly attend council meetings and their desire to make the city better. Council Member Young said Saturday's back-to-school event held in the Municipal Auditorium was great, and he hopes the event only grows larger every year.

Council Member Jackson announced a rezoning request for 20+ acres on Lavey Lane will be addressed at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the council chambers. She said anyone unable to attend this meeting can attend the council meeting on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. when the matter will come before the council for their consideration. Council Member Jackson said she is looking forward to meeting with BREC administrators on Thursday, August 11, 2022 at

9:00 a.m. at the zoo. She thanked the Rotary Club of Baker for inviting her to their event on Thursday, July 28, 2022. She thanked the Zachary and Baker High School classes of 1972 for inviting her to their 50th class reunion on Friday, July 29, 2022. Council Member Jackson thanked Dr. Katina Brooks for the back-to-school giveaway on July 30th.

Adam Kwentua, candidate for District Court Judge – Section 2 – Division G, introduced himself and presented his platform.

The Mayor discussed the city's emergency response plan, saying we must be able to take care of ourselves when disaster strikes. In an effort to help make the city more self-sufficient in times of crisis, the police department has purchased a high-water rescue vehicle and the fire department has purchased a search and rescue boat.

Council Member Vincent asked again about the possibility of the city acquiring a backhoe with a long arm to help clean out canals and ditches in an effort to alleviate flooding.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring August 2022 Minority Donor 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 August 2022 Psoriasis 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

1. Appoint Marguerite L. Mack to the Planning and Zoning Commission (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to appoint Marguerite L. Mack to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

CONDEMNATIONS

1. 1556 Alabama (Mayor)

The Mayor stated this property is scheduled for demolition.

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)
9. 4451 Baker Boulevard (Bryant)
10. 4509 Baker Boulevard (Bryant)
Council Member Bryant asked that this property be removed from the agenda.
11. 2116 E. Azalea (Dunn)
12. 5804 Biscayne (Mayor)
The Mayor asked that this property be removed from the agenda.
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.

Discussion regarding demolitions, grass-cutting and liens being placed on properties where the city has work done followed.

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 for an update on the proposed fire station to be built on the west side of the city. The Mayor stated the water well is to be built before construction on the fire station begins.

Council Member Bryant stated she sent information regarding semi-conductor chip manufacturing and having a plant that manufactures these chips come the City of Baker to Becky Bond six months ago. She reiterated her belief that such a facility would be an excellent addition to the city.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Jackson 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 August 9, 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
August 9, 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 August 9, 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 July 26, 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 July 2022.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to accept the sales reports submitted for July 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 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 for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on August 9, 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
August 9, 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 August 9, 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 Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 26, 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 Jackson, 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 August 9, 2022.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council