

**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

August 23, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on August 23, 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 Kenneth York.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Willie Williams.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to move BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson up on the agenda.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

*BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson to speak about park and recreation updates, baseball fields, and a proposed community center in the Baker area (Mayor)*  
BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson provided park and recreation updates for the City of Baker and the surrounding area. Mr. Wilson also initiated discussion regarding various possibilities for future BREC projects, including baseball fields and a community center in the Baker area.

**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 August 9, 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 Erin Fulbright – Director of the Sickie Cell Association of South Louisiana (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent recognized Erin Fulbright as the dynamic Director of the Sickle Cell Association of South Louisiana.

Proclamation declaring September 2022 Sickle Cell Anemia 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.

Erin Fulbright thanked the Mayor and Council for having her and for all they do to promote and support the Sickle Cell Association of South Louisiana's efforts. Ms. Fulbright provided an overview of the organization and the role it plays in the communities it serves. She announced Ryan's Run will be held Saturday, September 3, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. with a blood drive being held in conjunction with the run. She announced another blood drive is scheduled for Friday, September 2, 2022, at the Baker Branch Library from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. as well. Ms. Fulbright asked everyone to consider donating blood for this worthy cause and reminded them that they can donate blood at the OLOL Blood Donor Center at any time. She asked that donors mention the Sickle Cell Association of South Louisiana, so the organization is credited for those donations.

Council Member Vincent presented Ms. Fulbright with his yearly donation to the Sickle Cell Association. He stated the Baker Lions Club is cohosting the blood drive scheduled for Friday, September 2, 2022, at the Baker Branch Library from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Council Member Vincent said students from Baker High School will also be involved with this event. He encouraged everyone to participate in these events and asked that they continue to support the efforts of those working tirelessly to help those in our community suffering from this dreaded disease. Council Member Vincent distributed flyers detailing the upcoming events.

2. Recognize the members of the Princess to Queen mentoring group (Young)  
Council Member Young recognized members of the Princess to Queen Nurturing and Mentorship Program. The young ladies recognized for their participation in the program are as follows: Shabraeyon Blackburn, Samantha Blackburn, Amber Harris, Jaila McKneely, Johari McKneely, Jamoriya Wilson, Teyana Howard, Jolaysha Mitchell, Takeria Joseph and Janaziea Neff. Council Member Young thanked the program's creator, Joyce Burges, for her commitment and dedication to the program and its participants.

#### PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

- Rezoning Request:** Lavey Lane, Baker, Louisiana  
**Owner:** Barry Kling, Patti Jo Kling, Brenda McClure-Poppell, Sheila K. Troth, Gregory S. Wilson and Mark M. Wilson  
**Name of Applicant:** Reginald Stewman  
12379 Legacy Hills Drive  
Geismar, Louisiana 70737

**Lots:** Tract A-2 (8.066 acres), Tract B-2-A (7.27 acres) and Tract C (8.373 acres)

**Subdivision:** Joseph T. Babin Tract

City of Baker, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

**Property Currently Zoned:** R-1

**Requested Zoning:** R-5

**Proposed Use:** Rezone to allow multi-family housing (Apartment Complex)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

It was determined the owners of the property should be present before the matter is considered by the City Council.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Young to table this agenda item.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson to speak about park and recreation updates, baseball fields, and a proposed community center in the Baker area (Mayor)

This agenda item was addressed previously.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2022-16, an ordinance to rename the cemetery in honor of Norman E. "Pete" Heine at his death (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre provided an explanation of the proposed ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2022-16.

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.

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 the introduction of Ordinance 2022-16.

The motion to introduce Ordinance 2022-16 passed with a vote of 4-0.

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. She stated LaTonya Rounds of Holistic Ministry holds exercise classes on Mondays and Wednesdays at the gym on Alabama Street. Council Member Bryant said gardens are a great way to contribute to your budget and anyone who needs help establishing a garden at their home should contact her. She asked for volunteers to assist in preparing the community garden site for planting. Council Member Bryant thanked the Police Department for dispersing a party in District 3 that was too loud. She asked that if you have a party, that you do not infringe on your neighbor's privacy, saying everyone should respect their neighbors. Council

Member Bryant asked that everyone continue to use hand sanitizer and take care of themselves.

4. Baker Lions Club Sickle Cell Anemia Blood Drive (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent said the Baker Lions Club, along with the Sickle Cell Association of South Louisiana, will host a blood drive on Friday, September 2, 2022, at the Baker Branch Library from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. He reminded everyone that Ryan's Run will be held Saturday, September 3, 2022, in downtown Baton Rouge beginning at 8:00 a.m. A blood drive is being held in conjunction with the run as well. Flyers were available and distributed.

**NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Gretchen Wiltz stated she wanted to speak on the rezoning request under Planning and Zoning Matters earlier in the meeting but was not recognized and therefore unable to do so.

Desiree Collins, candidate for the City of Baker School Board – District 3, introduced herself and presented her platform.

Thomas Bennett, 13308 Alba, said he represents a group of concerned citizens who would like to educate themselves about the City of Baker. In an effort to accomplish this, he asked that they be provided with a comprehensive map of the City of Baker, an updated flow chart, so that residents can better understand the different departments in the city and their functions, as well as salary information for all city employees.

Gloria Johnson, 14044 Brantley, stated it is her intent – if asked – to serve on any boards or commissions.

Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor and his staff for cutting the grass and ditches and reminded them to not forget Thomas Road. He asked about the plans for the Leland College property and said if he can help in any way to please let him know. He expressed his displeasure with businesses that do not maintain their property and quoted Section 20-127 – Duties of Business Owners from the City of Baker Code of Ordinances. Council Member Vincent encouraged them to continue doing all they can to keep their property up. He announced September is Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Month and asked for the city's participation in the blood drive being co-hosted by the Baker Lions Club scheduled for Friday, September 2, 2022, at the Baker Branch Library from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Council Member Vincent asked everyone to consider donating blood for this worthy cause.

Council Member Dunn congratulated Desiree Collins on her candidacy. She congratulated Alteen Profit on winning the City of Baker School Board seat for District 2. Council Member Dunn said she is grateful to be of service to the Baker community. She said that while grass and litter can be a problem, if residents work to maintain their property and help their neighbors do the same, the whole city benefits. Council Member Dunn reiterated that a better community can be built by working together.

Council Member Bryant thanked Larry Barton for marking the streetlights at the corner of McHugh Road and Groom Road. She asked that the city work to develop better communication with DEMCO and Entergy. She announced rental assistance is available for those who qualify from Catholic Charities. Council Member Bryant announced Dr. Manalac's office will reopen with his son taking over the practice. She asked what the city did with the money it received from American Rescue Plan. The Mayor said the money was spent on canals throughout the city. Council Member Bryant stated work may have been done in other areas of the city, however, she does not see improved drainage in District 3 at this point.

Discussion regarding canals in the City of Baker followed.

Council Member Bryant stated a work session needs to be scheduled to discuss the finances of the city.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to extend the meeting until 8:15 p.m.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Young alerted everyone to the possibility of drugs being put on their car door handle, resulting in abduction. He said this happened recently to a Baker resident and asked that everyone be mindful. Council Member Young asked dog owners to be aware that children are out early in the mornings to catch the bus, and to keep their dogs in their yards.

Council Member Jackson extended a special thank you to the constituents of District 5, Baker residents, and businesses for their support and understanding during the process of her getting a new phone. She then initiated discussion regarding the work session requested by Council Member Bryant.

Council Member Bryant stated a book give-away was held Saturday, August 20, 2022, at Azalea Gardens. She said Police Chief Dunn participated and it was a wonderful community activity that showed residents we care about them and are willing to help them any way we can.

Discussion followed regarding scheduling a work session on September 8, 2022.

The Mayor announced GOHSEP plans to place 500 FEMA trailers on the old Renaissance Village site on Groom Road. He said he plans to send a letter letting them know the City of Baker does not want the trailers put on this property. He asked residents to contact Representative Barbara Carpenter and Senator Regina Barrow and let them know they do not want the trailers here.

#### **RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Resolution indicating the intention of the City of Baker, State of Louisiana, to approve the two (2) year appointment of Darnell Waites as a director to the board of the Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority (the "Authority") as provided by Chapter 10-D of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (Mayor)

The Mayor provided an explanation of the resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt the resolution.

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 reads the charter well.

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 stated she is extremely bothered by the frequency of Council Member Jackson's abstentions.

Discussion regarding abstentions followed.

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

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

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

The motion to allow Council Member Jackson to abstain passed with a vote of 3-1.

Council Member Jackson abstained from voting on the resolution.

The resolution was adopted with a vote of 4-0.

2. Resolution to sell mobile home on Ewell Boulevard (Mayor)

The Mayor provided an explanation of the resolution.

Council Member Bryant asked that a community garden be reestablished at this site once the mobile home is removed.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt the resolution.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Jackson

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Jackson stated the reason for her abstention and said she will continue to stand for what is right.

**PUBLIC MEETING**

1. Adopt Ordinance 2022-15, an ordinance to set City of Baker property tax at 5.760 mills (Mayor) (Introduced 8/9/2022)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to adopt Ordinance 2022-15.

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)

The Mayor stated this property is scheduled for demolition and asked that it be removed from the agenda.

2. 1832 Florida (Mayor)

The Mayor stated this property is scheduled for demolition and asked that it be removed from the agenda.

3. 1916 Florida (Mayor)

4. 3226 Polk (Mayor)

The Mayor asked that this item be removed from the agenda.

5. 2235 Chamberlain (Mayor)

6. 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)
7. White house next door to 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)
8. 5803 Biscayne (Bryant)  
Council Member Bryant said the owner, Ms. Toussaint, is on the line to provide an update on her property. The Mayor stated there is no need for Ms. Toussaint to do so, as the property is not going to be torn down.
9. 4451 Baker Boulevard (Bryant)
10. 2116 E. Azalea (Dunn)
11. 14235 Blairstown (Mayor)  
The Mayor stated the owner of this property has contacted the city and plans to complete construction at this address.
12. 2845 Groom Road (Mayor)
13. 1302 Hazeloak (Mayor)  
The Mayor stated this property is scheduled for demolition and asked that it be removed from the agenda.

#### **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 Bryant, 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 August 23, 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 23, 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 23, 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 August 9, 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 to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned.



**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 23, 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 23, 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 23, 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 August 9, 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 Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Jackson 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 Jackson, 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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on August 23, 2022.

---

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council