

**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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**Telephone Conference Call**

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**September 13, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on September 13, 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 Bishop Ricky Sinclair.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Vincent.

**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 August 23, 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 Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to add item “1. Recognize Sickle Cell Anemia Ambassador Ms. Queen Hall (Vincent)” 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 Sickle Cell Anemia Ambassador Ms. Queen Hall (Vincent)*

Council Member Vincent asked that Ms. Hall’s recognition be postponed until later in the meeting, as she and her family had not yet arrived.

**PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS**

1. **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.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent that Tract A-2, Tract B-2-A and Tract C remain zoned R-1.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Dunn

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

The rezoning request submitted by Reginald Stewman for the property on Lavey Lane was denied. The property will retain its current zoning, which is R-1 Single Family Residential.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Introduce Ordinance 2022-17, an ordinance to designate and declare certain City of Baker assets surplus and/or scrap and for related matters (Mayor)

The Mayor provided an explanation of the ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2022-17.

Discussion regarding the proposed ordinance and the City of Baker's surplus property was held.

Vote was taken as follows.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

*Recognize Sickle Cell Anemia Ambassador Ms. Queen Hall (Vincent)*

Council Member Vincent recognized Sickle Cell Anemia Ambassador Ms. Queen Hall and proclaimed her an Honorary Council Member.

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, and stated it is a community building process. Council Member Bryant thanked the Fire and Police Departments for taking water to those in need in Jackson, Mississippi. She also thanked them for their courage and selfless service to the Baker community. Council Member Bryant said when she says a sense of pride and integrity, she is talking about respect, she is talking about prosperity in the community, the neatness of our community, she said it is about uplifting families.

Council Member Bryant reminded everyone, the more we support each other, the better the city will become.

3. Schedule work session to discuss City of Baker finances (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant asked that the council schedule a work session to discuss City of Baker finances.

Council Member Young questioned the purpose of the work session. He maintains that every question being asked, and all the information being requested is answered by/contained in the budget passed by the council earlier this year. Council Member Young contends that the monthly financial statements received by the council are sufficient.

Council Member Bryant stated the city's finances are part of a council member's responsibility and she believes they should be discussed in a public forum. She said the number of people attending the work session doesn't count, it's the information given out that matters. Council Member Bryant stated those who would like to participate in the work session concerning the budget can schedule a time and have a work session, and those who do not want to appear do not need to attend.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to schedule a work session Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. to discuss City of Baker finances.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Deborah Harris and Denise Stevenson to speak about safety and speed bumps (Jackson)

Deborah Harris and Denise Stevenson, members of the Sherron Avenue Residents Committee, expressed their concerns regarding safety in the neighborhood. The group is advocating for having speed humps placed on various streets in the area. They are anxious to work with the city and the police department to determine and implement the best means of traffic control in order to positively impact public safety.

**NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor and city workers for picking up the trash along Lavey Lane and Highway 19. He thanked the Lions Club, Sailor and Sonya Jackson, Council Member Jackson, the City of Baker School System, and everyone who helped make the sickle cell anemia event a success. Council Member Vincent reiterated that Baker is where we live and encouraged everyone to continue doing all they can to keep their property up.

Council Member Dunn thanked Council Member Vincent for always doing proclamations, especially the one for sickle cell anemia. She thanked the city workers for cutting the grass near the railroad tracks, saying they did a great job. She thanked city workers for addressing several issues she brought to their attention in the Leland College area as well.

Council Member Bryant asked for a progress report on blight court. She said there are still several areas in District 3 where the grass has been high for months. She asked if the city has someone to come in and cut the grass at these properties. The Mayor said they would provide her with the requested report and went on to explain the process of notifying homeowners of a high grass violation on their property and remediation of said violation.

Council Member Young encouraged everyone to pick up a copy of the *Weekly Press*. He said the current issue has several articles that feature the city. He said he and Council Member Jackson attended a meeting at which various programs being implemented by the Louisiana Housing Corporation in the City of Baker were discussed.

Council Member Jackson said she thoroughly enjoyed volunteering for the sickle cell anemia event, and truly appreciated the opportunity to increase her knowledge about sickle cell anemia and the plight of the individuals that suffer with the disease. She thanked Council Member Vincent for allowing her to volunteer. Council Member Jackson said the meeting she attended with the Louisiana Housing Corporation was excellent and she was pleased that they encouraged home ownership. She distributed packets from the meeting to council members who were unable to attend.

Council Member Young expressed his appreciation for his constituents who attended the Louisiana Housing Corporation meeting.

The Mayor said the *Weekly Press* is an instrument used by the city to get its narrative out. He said you have to create your narrative and the *Weekly Press* allows the city to do that.

The Mayor gave a presentation regarding the American Rescue Plan Act funds received by the city. He stated the funds have been used to for work on canals and ditches throughout the city, as well as to purchase equipment for the police department in the interest of public safety. A portion of future funding has been earmarked for infrastructure projects, such as installing gas lines on Lavey Lane.

The Mayor spoke about the future of the City of Baker and initiated discussion regarding economic development.

#### **RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Resolution affirming residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan (Mayor)

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages provided an explanation of the resolution. She said it is simply affirming the city has a plan in place, it is following the plan and reviews the plan on a regular basis.

Council Member Jackson asked that the resolution be considered at the next meeting, as the council received updated information on this resolution shortly before tonight's meeting began.

The Mayor stated this item will be tabled until the next council meeting.

2. Resolution to adopt the temporary housing and shelter assistance and expedited temporary housing assistance waiver of land use/permitting program and forms (Mayor)

The Mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled.

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages stated if the resolution affirming residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan is not adopted, the city stands to lose \$934,000.00 allocated for the HVAC project. She reiterated the resolution is only affirming the city has a plan that was adopted in 2020 and continues to administer the plan according to all applicable regulations.

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution affirming residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Jackson

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

#### **PUBLIC MEETING**

1. Adopt Ordinance 2022-16, an ordinance to rename the cemetery in honor of Norman E. "Pete" Heine at his death (Mayor) (Introduced 8/23/2022)

Public meeting was held.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Jackson did not vote on the adoption of Ordinance 2022-16, as she had stepped out of the meeting momentarily.

## **BIDS AND PROPOSALS**

## **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

### **CONDEMNATIONS**

1. 1916 Florida (Mayor)
2. 2235 Chamberlain (Mayor)
3. 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)
4. White house next door to 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)
5. 5803 Biscayne (Bryant)
6. 2116 E. Azalea (Dunn)
7. 2845 Groom Road (Mayor)

The Mayor stated 1832 Florida, 1556 Alabama and 1302 Hazeloak have all been demolished.

## **ANNEXATIONS**

### **REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

1. Planning and Zoning
2. Annexation Review Committee
3. Economic Development Team – Council Member Bryant asked if a report on economic development in the city is available. The Mayor said no such report is available at this time.
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 stated there should be some type of report on economic development in the city. She asked if RaceTrac opening a location in Baker was still a possibility, she asked if they have been contacted. She said the council never receives any information from the person in charge of economic development. There is never any evidence that any type of process is taking place. She wants to see something physical taking place, she wants to know what is happening, she wants to know what the process is for contacting businesses. She would like more accountability with regards to economic development in the City of Baker.

## **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 September 13, 2022.

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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  
September 13, 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 September 13, 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 Commissioners Dunn/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 23, 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 September 13, 2022.

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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  
September 13, 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 September 13, 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 23, 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 Dunn 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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on September 13, 2022.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council