

**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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October 11, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on October 11, 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 Gloria Johnson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Attorney Fabre.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 27, 2022.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

NEW BUSINESS

1. 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 said it provides guidelines for us to build our city and allows the city to progress. She said there are plans for a community garden. Council Member Bryant reminded everyone LaTonya Rounds, Holistic Ministry, has exercise classes at the BREC gym on Alabama Street. She also reminded everyone they can use their doorbell and security cameras to assist the police department. Video and audio recordings can be shared with the authorities. Council Member Bryant reported

this has proven helpful in deterring crime in District 3. She mentioned the fire department and the importance of smoke detectors with the onset of colder weather. Council Member Bryant asked that residents be mindful when putting trash out and avoid allowing debris to block drainage in the ditches.

2. Schedule work session to discuss revising ordinances (Dunn) (Young)
Council Member Dunn said she would like to schedule a work session to discuss revising city ordinances.

Council Member Jackson asked that this agenda item be tabled due to technical difficulties. She asked that this agenda item be addressed at a time when Council Member Vincent can fully participate in the discussion.

Council Member Dunn tabled the agenda item.

3. Shadé Finley – Let’s Empowher – to discuss her organization (Young)
Shadé Finley provided an overview of her organization – Let’s Empowher. Ms. Finley founded the organization to help girls and young women, aged 5 to 21, who have been sexually abused. As a survivor of sexual abuse, she felt compelled to provide support and resources to others that were not readily available to her. The organization is focused on helping survivors heal from the trauma of their experiences through counseling, group support, self-esteem building, scholarships, and educational activities. Let’s Empowher’s mission is to bring hope and strength to young ladies who have been abused and provide them with mental health advocacy through counseling, education, and positive self-talk.

Twanna Harris, The Butterfly Society, presented data on domestic violence in Baton Rouge and the surrounding areas. Ms. Harris stated domestic violence is a crisis, a serious crisis, and it is imperative that the community take a stand. She reminded everyone that while October is recognized as Domestic Violence Month, domestic violence is a problem all the time. Ms. Harris explained a number of the resources and services provided by The Butterfly Society and reiterated the importance of being involved and offering support to domestic violence survivors and their families. She reminded everyone domestic violence is a community concern and that it takes each and every one of us to do something in order to make a difference.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Shemeatric Coleman, 519 Sherron, candidate for the City of Baker School Board, introduced herself and presented her platform.

Gloria Johnson, 14044 Brantley, announced a candidate forum will be held Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium.

Council Member Dunn stated some of her constituents on Magnolia and Cypress are interested in having speed bumps installed in that area.

Council Member Bryant said residents who have been affected by a flood or hurricane can contact Catholic Charities for assistance. Council Member Bryant asked the Mayor if the City of Baker has any bridges slated for repair with funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, as there are several in the area in need of attention. Council Member Bryant asked if all city employees have job descriptions, if all have been provided a copy of their job descriptions, and if all have acknowledged receipt of said copy. The Mayor said yes, they have.

Council Member Jackson gave a special thank you to Public Works Director Timmie Sept and the Mayor for helping the Thomas family with their driveway. She also thanked Jermaine Adams, Buildings and Grounds, his staff and the Mayor for hanging the historical voting board in the Council Chambers. Council Member Jackson verified that the Mayor received Ms. Wright’s email about the canal behind her property.

The Mayor announced Entergy has awarded the city a \$1,500.00 grant through their “Beat the Heat” campaign to be used to purchase box fans for vulnerable senior residents. He said the grant will allow the city to purchase fifty-six box fans, to be divided evenly

among the five council districts. Each council member will be responsible for designating the recipients of the fans in their district.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring Miranda G. Riley Autism Ambassador for the City of Baker (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, 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.

Mrs. Riley, founder of the Magnolia Rose Foundation for Autism Acceptance, announced the Magnolia Masquerade Ball will be held Saturday, November 12, 2022, 8:00 p.m. to midnight and asked that everyone continue to support the foundation and its upcoming events.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Adopt Ordinance 2022-18, an ordinance for the annexation of Tract A-4-A, resubdivision of Tracts A-1 & A-4, Maryland Farms, etc., located in the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, into the city limits of the City of Baker, Louisiana (Mayor) (Introduced 9/27/2022)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2022-18.

Council Member Vincent stated he would like to abstain from voting on this matter until such time that he can confirm that signs were posted alerting residents to the possibility of annexation and what, if any, their reaction was to such news.

Council Member Bryant asked if the agenda item could be tabled.

The Mayor said this agenda item, as well as the next one, would be tabled.

The Mayor asked that council members pose any questions, express any concerns, and discuss the proposed annexations with the administration prior to the next council meeting so as to avoid any further delays in the process.

2. Adopt Ordinance 2022-19, an ordinance for the annexation of Sunshine Gardens, Lots 5 & 6, resubdivision of Lot B of the Brown Tract, etc., located in the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, into the city limits of the City of Baker, Louisiana (Mayor) (Introduced 9/27/2022)

The Mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled.

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)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to remove 5803 Biscayne from the agenda.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

6. 2116 E. Azalea (Dunn)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Bryant to remove 2116 E. Azalea from the agenda.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

7. 2845 Groom Road (Mayor)

ANNEXATIONS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Executive Session to be held in order to discuss current litigation (Jackson)
Council Member Jackson stated on October 3, 2022, she had emails forwarded to both the Mayor and City Attorney Fabre requesting clarification/information regarding a letter that was sent to the Mayor, City Attorney Fabre, Police Chief Carl Dunn, and Baker City Council members by Mary E. Roper. Council Member Jackson feels since she was included in the correspondence, and has concerns about it, clarification is imperative.

Council Member Jackson explained Ms. Roper is an attorney representing Ms. Nancy Thomas in the ongoing food truck debate. In the letter Ms. Roper stated she was told there is nothing preventing Ms. Thomas from operating her food truck at its current location or anywhere else in the City of Baker, as Baker does not have any laws prohibiting this type of business. Ms. Roper asked for written confirmation that there are no prohibitions to Ms. Thomas operating a food truck within the city limits of Baker. She also asked that if there are any prohibitions or prerequisites to operating a food truck business, that these items be specified in writing as well.

In her email Council Member Jackson asked if a response had been sent to Ms. Roper and, if so, for a copy of what was sent. Council Member Jackson stated the response she received to her request was being asked by City Attorney Fabre for clarification on what she meant by “written confirmation” and/or “written request provided.” Council Member Jackson referred City Attorney Fabre to the second and last paragraphs of the letter sent by Ms. Roper.

Council Member Jackson said she received emails from City Attorney Fabre prior to tonight's meeting which stated this situation did not meet the criteria for an executive session. She stated she would simply like her question answered and again asked City Attorney Fabre if a written response has been sent to Ms. Roper. Mr. Fabre answered no. Council Member Jackson thanked him for his response.

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 Jackson, 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 October 11, 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
October 11, 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 October 11, 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 September 27, 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 September 2022.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to accept the sales report submitted for September 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 Dunn 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 October 11, 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
October 11, 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 October 11, 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 September 27, 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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on October 11, 2022.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council