

**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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September 27, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on September 27, 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 Naisha Cooper.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Young.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to move items “1. Appoint Mr. Elvis Collins to the Baker Fire & Police Civil Service Board (Bryant) and 2. Appoint Mrs. Sonya Jackson to the Baker Fire & Police Civil Service Board (Bryant)” under Appointments to Boards and Commissions up on the agenda so that they fall under Recognitions.

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 Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 13, 2022.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. *Appoint Mr. Elvis Collins to the Baker Fire & Police Civil Service Board (Bryant)*

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to appoint Mr. Elvis Collins to the Baker Fire & Police Civil Service Board.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. *Appoint Mrs. Sonya Jackson to the Baker Fire & Police Civil Service Board (Bryant)*

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to appoint Mrs. Sonya Jackson to the Baker Fire & Police Civil Service Board.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve Business License Request – 2022-17
Shaelisa Bradley-Hunt
Bradley-Hunt & Associates Real Estate, LLC
Location – 4536 Groom Road, Baker, Louisiana
Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for Bradley-Hunt & Associates Real Estate, LLC.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve travel for Chief Dunn to attend the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police (LACP) fall conference October 11, 2022 to October 13, 2022 in Alexandria, Louisiana (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve travel for Chief Dunn to attend the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police (LACP) fall conference October 11, 2022 to October 13, 2022 in Alexandria, Louisiana.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Introduce 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)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

Council Member Bryant asked the city attorney for an explanation of the annexation procedure used by the city. City Attorney Fabre provided an overview of the process.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

3. Introduce 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)

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2022-19.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

4. 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 is to improve our community as we grow. She said we were blessed when we had a community garden that allowed residents to come pick fresh fruits and vegetables. She reminded everyone if they need assistance establishing or maintaining a garden at their home, they can call her at (225) 773-7135. Council Member Bryant said information on exercise classes conducted by LaTonya Rounds can be obtained by contacting the Baker Chamber of Commerce. She thanked everyone who was involved with delivering water to Jackson, Mississippi, during their time of crisis. Council Member Bryant reminded everyone there is a “no burn” order at this time in the City of Baker and surrounding areas due to the dryness of the area and wind. She asked that residents report any unlawful burning to the Fire Department. Council Member Bryant announced Baker High School’s homecoming parade will be held Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 12:30 p.m.

5. Update on installation of historical voting board in the Council Chambers (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson asked when the historical voting board, that was removed from the council chambers during renovations, will be placed on the back wall as requested. The Mayor said they are working to determine the best way to anchor the board to the wall, as it is extremely heavy. He assured Council Member Jackson installation would be completed in a timely manner.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Johnny McQuarter, 4206 Melban, initiated discussion regarding Ken Fabre and his acting as city attorney and city prosecutor simultaneously, as well as the budgets for the following city departments – legal, workforce development, human resources, and the museum.

Morris Anderson, 4506 Fausse, expressed his concerns regarding the possibility of FEMA trailers being placed on the former Renaissance Village site on Groom Road. He is against such action being taken. Mr. Anderson also asked that the city enforce its ordinance that prohibits putting debris in drains and ditches, as he would like to avoid future flooding.

Council Member Vincent congratulated BREC and Superintendent Corey Wilson for receiving a National Gold Medal Award. He said Mr. Wilson assured him the old equipment and fencing on Lavey Lane will be removed. Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor and city workers for cutting the ditches, saying it’s a job well done. Council Member Vincent encouraged everyone to pray for one another and do the right thing.

Council Member Dunn announced she has created an Advisory Board for District 2 and thanked them for attending the meeting that was held yesterday. She also thanked Fire Chief Pease, Administrative Officer Angela Machen, and Public Works Director Timmie Sept for attending the meeting and giving residents an opportunity to meet them. Council

Member Dunn feels the advisory board will facilitate problem solving in the city. She congratulated Monique Butler on running for the City of Baker School Board.

Council Member Bryant expressed her concerns regarding the work session that was held last week. She said council members requested information at the work session, which dealt with the finances of the city, and that information has not been received. She reiterated the importance of transparency and council participation in city finances and asked that council members be provided the same information given to the city auditor on a monthly basis. She said the city is receiving grant money to be used for improvements, but she is not seeing the work being done. Council Member Bryant stated she is concerned about the finances of the city. She then initiated discussion regarding mask mandates and the implications for the City of Baker.

Council Member Young stated the council is the law-making body of the City of Baker. He said he and Chief Pease are in the process of reviewing the city's burn ordinance and he plans to review the city's ordinance on putting debris in drains and ditches as well. Work sessions to discuss these ordinances will be scheduled as needed.

Council Member Jackson thanked Mr. Ivory Payne and his staff. She said she is grateful for being inducted and included in the inaugural edition of the 2022 Louisiana Leading Ladies publication. She said it is a gratifying and humbling experience to be recognized. Council Member Jackson announced October 5, 2022, is Wear Pink Day, and on October 12, 2022, White Cane Day will be held in downtown Baton Rouge at 9:00 a.m. and gives people an opportunity to walk in the shoes of someone who is visually impaired. She thanked Council President Bryant for reminding everyone of the work session that was held, saying she is hopeful that the suggestions she made at the work session will be implemented. Council Member Jackson said communication is key and improvements must be made. She reiterated everything in the budget should have a line item, especially grants received by the city. Council Member Jackson said she respects everyone's opinion and their vote, but she will always be one who will follow rules and procedures and if rules and procedures are not followed, that will affect her vote.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

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

City Attorney Fabre read a portion of the resolution.

The Mayor provided an explanation of the resolution.

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt the resolution to adopt the temporary housing and shelter assistance and expedited temporary housing assistance waiver of land use/permitting program and forms.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Bryant initiated discussion regarding ordinances and resolutions dealing with the same subject being on the agenda and addressed at different times at the same meeting. Specifically, those that relate to the annexation process.

2. Resolution to designate authority for LGAP/Act 117 (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read a portion of the resolution.

The Mayor provided an explanation of the resolution.

Discussion regarding resolution was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt the resolution to designate authority for LGAP-ACT 117 drainage improvements and upgrades.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

City Attorney Fabre read a portion of the resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt the resolution to designate authority for LGAP-ACT 117 sidewalk construction for underdeveloped streets.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

3. Resolution giving notice of the filing of a petition for the extension of boundaries of the City of Baker, Louisiana – Tract A-4-A, Maryland Farms, Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read a portion of the resolution and provided an explanation of same.

Council Member Bryant asked for clarification on why the ordinances pertaining to annexation were addressed prior to the resolutions pertaining to annexation.

Discussion regarding the annexation process and requisite documents followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt the resolution giving notice of the filing of a petition for the extension of boundaries of the City of Baker, Louisiana – Tract A-4-A, Maryland Farms, Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

4. Resolution giving notice of the filing of a petition for the extension of boundaries of the City of Baker, Louisiana – Lots 5 & 6, Sunshine Gardens, Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read a portion of the resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt the resolution giving notice of the filing of a petition for the extension of boundaries of the City of Baker, Louisiana – Lots 5 & 6, Sunshine Gardens, Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana.

YEAS: Dunn, Young

NAYS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion failed with a vote of 2-3.

5. Proclamation declaring September 2022 National Workforce Development 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 Young 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.

Council Member Vincent announced the North Baton Rouge Training Initiative is hosting an Open House on Thursday, October 27, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the BRCC Acadian Campus located at 3250 N. Acadian Thruway.

6. Proclamation declaring October 2022 Domestic Violence 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.

7. Proclamation declaring October 2022 National Breast Cancer 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 2022-17, an ordinance to designate and declare certain City of Baker assets surplus and/or scrap and for related matters (Mayor) (Introduced 9/13/2022)

Public meeting was held.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

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)

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 Council Member Vincent if he had anything to report on economic development.

Council Member Vincent stated the next meeting of the Baker Economic Development District and Convention Center will be held in late October. He said, as always, the meetings are open to the public and information on how to participate in the meetings is available on the city's website.

Council Member Dunn distributed handouts with helpful information on how to attend council meetings virtually, access the city's website, as well as how to sign up for the city's text notification system.

Council Member Vincent said the Baker Economic Development District and Convention Center is focused on helping to grow the City of Baker. Meetings are normally held at 9:30 a.m.

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 27, 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
September 27, 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 27, 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 September 13, 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 August 2022.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to accept the sales report submitted for August 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 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 27, 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
September 27, 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 27, 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 September 13, 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 Commissioners Dunn/Vincent 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 27, 2022.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council