

**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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Passcode: 217106

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Dial In: 646-558-8656

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October 25, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on October 25, 2022, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Glenda Bryant

Rochelle Dunn

Brenda G. Jackson

Dr. Charles Vincent

Robert Young

ABSENT

Mayor Darnell Waites

CALL TO ORDER – City Council President Glenda Bryant presided.
The invocation was given by Council Member Vincent
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Attorney Fabre.

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 October 11, 2022.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Community Business Awareness Award presented to Mr. Naser Saleh's Big Boy Store for improvements for the betterment of the City of Baker (Vincent)
Council Member Vincent asked that this item be addressed at a later time, as Mr. Saleh was not present.

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 said she invited someone to go through the mission statement at tonight's meeting, however, they are not here. She asked that this item be addressed once the guest speaker arrives.

2. Schedule date and time for Halloween in Baker (Bryant)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Dunn to set Monday, October 31, 2022, as the date for Halloween in Baker.

Council Member Jackson asked to abstain from voting on this matter.

Council Member Vincent asked to abstain from voting on this matter.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to allow Council Member Vincent 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.

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.

The vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Jackson, Vincent

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

The date for Halloween in Baker was set for Monday, October 31, 2022.

3. Schedule work session to discuss revising ordinances (Dunn)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to schedule a work session to discuss ordinance 1994-20, an ordinance regarding video poker, on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Consider rescheduling December 2022 council meetings (Jackson)

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent to reschedule the December 27, 2022, City Council meeting for Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Vera Daniels, 201 Charles, expressed her concerns regarding drainage issues on Charles Avenue, Lavey Lane and Sherron Avenue. She stated the water gets high in this area following a rain, coming up to and sometimes into the houses. Ms. Daniels said it is her understanding that the city has received significant funding to be used for drainage issues. She said the city has been made aware of this situation numerous times and she wants something done about the problem.

Council Member Bryant asked if the contract for the drainage project has gone out and if it has, who was awarded the contract to do the work.

Administrative Officer Angela Machen said she would get with the Mayor and once she gathered the information regarding contracts, contractors, and planned drainage projects, she would provide same to Ms. Daniels and Council Member Bryant.

Public Works Director Timmie Sept stated Lavey Lane is a state highway, and the state has been asked to cut the ditches and provide roadside maintenance on Lavey Lane.

Discussion regarding various drainage ditches throughout the city followed.

Ikeal Davenport, 3341 Chamberlain, asked Council Member Dunn about the roadwork being done in the Leland College subdivision. He asked if the work is part of an overlay program or if it is only patch work. Mr. Davenport also asked for an update on the Mississippi Street well.

Public Works Director Timmie Sept said the roadwork is being done in preparation for overlaying the streets. He stated they are drilling at the Mississippi Street well, and that it is an ongoing process.

Discussion regarding roads in need of attention in the city, responsibility for road maintenance, and overlay programs for city streets was held.

Council Member Bryant recognized her guest speaker, Dr. Cordel Parris, who spoke about the importance of growing your own healthy foods and eating a balanced diet.

Johnny McQuarter, 4206 Melban, asked about the timeline for proposed work on Lavey Lane and if anyone is spearheading that effort. He feels the road should be widened, and turn lanes and sidewalks installed as well. He said something needs to be done. Mr. McQuarter also asked that the city enforce its ordinance that prohibits dumping debris in ditches and drains.

Council Member Vincent said as we move forward with the Lavey Lane road transfer, we will see if we can do more on Lavey Lane with the ½ cent sales tax. He reiterated the importance of keeping debris out of the city's ditches and drains. He asked everyone to be vigilant and reminded those who hire contractors to cut their grass to tell the contractors that putting debris in ditches and/or drains is prohibited. Council Member Vincent said he plans to meet with the Mayor to discuss screens which can be placed over catch basins to trap debris. He asked everyone to refrain from parking on the streets overnight. Council Member Vincent invited everyone to join him in his regular Saturday clean-up efforts and encouraged them to continue to do all they can to keep our city litter free.

Council Member Dunn reported she spoke to representatives from GOHSEP regarding the property on Groom Road across from Leland College subdivision. The property is to be used to store used trailers that the state intends to sell. She assured her constituents that she would continue to pass along any information she receives regarding the situation. Council Member Dunn encouraged everyone to help their neighbors if at all possible and stressed the importance of people coming together and being on one accord.

Council Member Bryant said as we come together as a community and strive to grow, it is imperative that we adjust our standards and expectations. She said we have to start at the top, not the bottom, we have to believe success is possible and not place limits on ourselves or those looking to establish businesses in the city. She thanked the Legend Awards for hosting their event Sunday night and recognizing outstanding women from the Baker community. She reminded everyone that early voting is open and encouraged everyone to vote in the upcoming elections. Council Member Bryant asked that the city fix the road repair that was done on Baker Boulevard, as it poses a safety hazard to residents. She reminded everyone of the proposed student debt relief program and the child tax credit. Council Member Bryant announced the City of St. Gabriel will receive hundreds of millions of dollars to build a plant to manufacture lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles. She stated she has repeatedly advocated for annexation and reaching out to corporations in order to build industry that would provide jobs in the City of Baker. Council Member Bryant again suggested the city consider wastewater monitoring.

Council Member Young announced Metro Council Member Chauna Banks will host two community meetings regarding blight. The first will be held Thursday, October 22, 2022, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Restoration Christian Center, 2018 Main Street, Baker, Louisiana. The second will be held Tuesday, November 8, 2022, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Shady Grove First Missionary Baptist Church, 16443 Plank Road, Baker, Louisiana.

Council Member Jackson thanked Council Member Vincent for allowing her to fill in for him at the Keep Louisiana Beautiful conference. She asked City Attorney Fabre to provide her with documentation that shows the administration can issue “temporary” business licenses/permits.

Council Member Bryant initiated discussion regarding an email received from City Attorney Fabre in response to correspondence received from Mary Roper having to do with food trucks. In question is the administration’s issuance of “temporary” business licenses/permits, the authority to do so and validity of said licenses/permits.

Council Member Jackson announced the Brenda G. Jackson and Community Partners Turkey Giveaway for pre-registered Baker residents will be Monday, November 21, 2022, at Miracle Place Church, 2080 Main Street, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration will be held from October 30, 2022 to November 16, 2022. Information can be found on Council Member Jackson’s Facebook page – JacksonInAction.

Council Member Bryant announced the Baker Police Department will host Trunk or Treat Monday, October 31, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at City Park.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring November 2022 Pancreatic 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 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.

Elvin Howard, Sr., Pancreatic Cancer Advocacy Foundation (Vincent)
Council Member Vincent introduced and welcomed Elvin Howard, Sr. Pancreatic Cancer Advocacy Foundation (PCAF) representative Veronica Howard Sizer.

Veronica Howard Sizer, Elvin Howard, Sr.’s daughter, provided an overview of the foundation and its work. Ms. Sizer invited everyone to join the Elvin Howard, Sr., Pancreatic Cancer Advocacy Foundation on Friday, November 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. for its annual fundraiser at Helix Aviation Academy at the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport. She announced the foundation is partnering with the City of Baker and together they will host its inaugural 5K run/1 mile walk on Saturday, November 19, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. at City Hall.

The Elvin Howard, Sr. PCAF can be found on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and at www.elvinhowardsrpcaf.org. Ms. Sizer asked for everyone’s support as they continue to raise awareness and help pancreatic cancer patients and their families as they go through this horrible disease.

PUBLIC MEETING

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Council Member Bryant asked that anyone in District 3 interested in serving on a city board or commission contact her at (225) 773-7135.

CONDEMNATIONS

1. 1916 Florida (Mayor)
2. 2235 Chamberlain (Mayor)
3. 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)
4. White house next door to 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)
5. 2845 Groom Road (Mayor)
6. 1637 Robinson Street (Mayor)
7. 12979 Wedgewood (Mayor)

ANNEXATIONS

Council Member Bryant reiterated the importance of annexation to the growth and development of the City of Baker.

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 Enforcement – Will meet on the third Thursday of December.
 - e. Main Street District Committee

City Attorney Fabre stated the appointment of members to the Fire and Police Civil Service Board will have to be repeated. He said the State Examiner’s Office requested the required list of four names be resubmitted.

Discussion followed.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, 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 October 25, 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 25, 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 25, 2022, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS

Glenda Bryant
Rochelle Dunn
Brenda G. Jackson
Dr. Charles Vincent
Robert Young

ABSENT

Darnell Waites

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Bryant presided.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 11, 2022.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Waites

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

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 Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Jackson to adjourn.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Waites

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by 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 Board of Commissioners for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on October 25, 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 25, 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 25, 2022, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

Glenda Bryant
Rochelle Dunn
Brenda G. Jackson
Dr. Charles Vincent
Robert Young

ABSENT

Darnell Waites

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Bryant presided.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Vincent seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 11, 2022.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Waites

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

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 Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Jackson to adjourn.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Waites

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by 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 Board of Commissioners of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on October 25, 2022.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council