

**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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November 8, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on November 8, 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 Greensburg.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Bryant.

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 25, 2022.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

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 said he would deliver the certificate to Mr. Saleh, as he was unable to attend the meeting.

Council Member Vincent stated his reason for recognizing Mr. Saleh is his willingness to make improvements that serve to beautify and better the Baker community.

Council Member Vincent said we can and must do better. He asked that people remain vigilant and continue to pick up trash whenever and wherever they are able, saying we must take pride in our city. He reminded residents and business owners that this is their city and encouraged them to continue doing all they can to keep their property up. He reiterated the importance of community pride and thanked everyone for their continued efforts to keep Baker beautiful.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve Business License Request – 2022-18

Ka'Wanna Williams
Helen's Hope Residential Care Home, Inc.
Location – 1311 Texas Avenue, Baker, Louisiana 70714

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The Mayor stated this matter needs to be sent back to the Planning and Zoning Commission in order to verify zoning information.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to send this agenda item back to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The matter was sent back to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

2. Approve Business License Request – 2022-19
Assoumatine Assiakissa
House of Joy and Care
Location – 4425 Groom Road, Baker, Louisiana 70714

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for House of Joy and Care.

Discussion regarding the agenda item continued.

Council Member Dunn withdrew her motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for House of Joy and Care.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to table this agenda item until such time that the council members have had an opportunity to review the business plan and all other submitted documentation for House of Joy and Care.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

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 helps us move forward as a community. She asked Fire Chief Pease about the status of CO2 monitors for distribution to residents and if there was a grant to ensure these monitors would be available to Baker citizens. Chief Pease responded not at this time, saying the Fire Marshal administers that program. The Fire Department has 34 smoke detectors available to interested residents. Council Member Bryant reiterated Council Member Vincent's point regarding the importance of cleaning up our neighborhoods and keeping the community clean. She pointed out there are a lot of junk cars in the city that need to be removed.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2022-20, an ordinance to prohibit food trucks or rolling vendors and to provide for limited exceptions regarding to the same (Vincent) Council Member Vincent provided an overview of the proposed ordinance.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to introduce Ordinance 2022-20.

Council Member Vincent voted yes.

Council Member Dunn voted no.

Council Member Dunn stated she does not agree with the ordinance, and thinks it is unfair to prohibit food trucks.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Young said he would be bigger than his colleagues who refused to introduce an ordinance he placed on the agenda for introduction due to personal reasons.

Council Member Young voted yes.

Council Member Jackson voted yes.

The motion to introduce Ordinance 2022-20 passed with a vote of 4-1.

Ordinance 2022-20 was introduced.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Gretchen Wiltz, Debra Drive, expressed her support for Ordinance 2022-20, saying the ordinance makes perfect sense and is self-explanatory.

Vera Daniels, 201 Charles, again expressed her concerns regarding drainage issues on Charles Avenue, Lavey Lane and Sherron Avenue. She presented pictures showing high water in these areas illustrating her point about the drainage issues on these streets.

Public Works Director Timmie Sept stated they have been shooting grades on ditches on Lavey Lane and have discovered the culverts at 201 Sinbad are two feet higher than they should be. The Public Works Department plans on installing a bigger culvert and dropping it down. They feel this will alleviate a number of the drainage issues in that area.

Elaine Middleton, 14112 Felicity, expressed her concerns regarding placing a roundabout at Lavey Lane and Plank Road. Mrs. Middleton asked for an update on the abandoned house on Blairstown. The Mayor said the city ultimately plans to demolish the structure.

Ikeal Davenport, 3341 Chamberlain, asked again 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. The Mayor stated he would provide Mr. Davenport a copy of the list of streets to be overlaid in the city. Mr. Davenport asked about funds, and allocation of said funds, for stormwater management. The Mayor said he plans to distribute information that will address those questions, and others, later in the meeting.

Council Member Vincent thanked his constituents for their concern and prayers for the city. He stated he has always been a champion of economic development and has worked tirelessly his entire tenure on the council to promote progress and growth for the entire city and all its residents. Council Member Vincent said he has 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 and that BREC has great plans for Greenwood Park.

Council Member Dunn encouraged everyone to vote. She said she wants Baker to be beautiful and she wants Baker to grow, these are two of her goals. Council Member Dunn asked that council members encourage and support business owners in the city.

Council Member Bryant said the standard for the City of Baker is what she is interested in, and economic development is the number one reason a city raises its standard. She said she has some suggestions for businesses to be contacted about the possibility of locating in our community.

Council Member Bryant initiated discussion regarding economic development, potential businesses as well as what those businesses are looking for when researching new areas to invest in.

Council Member Bryant said in order to be a progressive city the administration must be held accountable, they must be questioned about the use of citizens' tax dollars, there has to be visible evidence of the work being done and progress being made in our community. She said she is tired of hearing about progress, she wants to see it. Council Member Bryant reiterated the importance of a standard and the "look" of the city.

Council Member Young stated businesses are concerned with rooftops, that is what they are looking at when considering whether to locate in an area. Council Member Young addressed the length of council meetings, saying there is often a 45-minute agenda and a two-hour meeting. He said nothing is getting done. He said there is no reason for this, and it is no way to do business. Council Member Young encouraged his colleagues to go over the agenda, research and ask questions prior to the meetings, in order to be informed and prepared at the meetings. He said everyone needs to work together.

Council Member Jackson reminded everyone of the Brenda G. Jackson and Community Partners Turkey Giveaway Monday, November 21, 2022, at Miracle Place Church, 2080 Main Street, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration is from October 30, 2022 to November 16, 2022. Information can be found on Council Member Jackson's Facebook page – JacksonInAction. She reminded everyone the Baker City Council's December council meetings will be held Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Council Member Jackson said everyone is entitled to their opinion and has the right to be heard, but rules and procedures must be followed. She said she is a strong believer in that, and she will not waiver from that.

The Mayor distributed a packet which provided an overview of improvements from 2016-2022 and information regarding ditch improvements funded with American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution LGAP (Local Government Assistance Program) grant (Mayor) (Young)

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

Council Member Jackson referenced following rules and procedures and said she had concerns regarding Administrative Officer Angela Machen replacing City Attorney Fabre and reading the resolution.

The Mayor read the resolution.

The vote was called for.

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 resolution.

The resolution was adopted.

Council Member Jackson stated she will sit and stand alone for what is right, for her beliefs, and she will continue to follow rules and procedures. She said she will always stand for her convictions.

Council Member Dunn expressed her displeasure with Council Member Jackson's abstentions.

2. Resolution CWEF (Community Water Enrichment Fund) grant (Mayor)

Council Member Bryant read the resolution.

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

The vote was called for.

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, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Dunn

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

Council Member Jackson abstained from voting on the resolution.

The resolution was adopted.

3. Veterans' Day proclamation (Mayor)

The Mayor read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, 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.

Council Member Vincent announced a Veterans' Day luncheon is being held Thursday, November 10, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at Occasions Unlimited.

4. Proclamation declaring November 2022 Diabetes Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent 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.

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)

The Mayor provided an explanation of the ordinance.

Public meeting was held.

Council Member Jackson asked if the ordinance needed to be reintroduced, as the introduction was done on September 27, 2022. The Mayor stated no, the ordinance did not need to be reintroduced.

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

Council Member Vincent voted yes.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant expressed her concerns regarding the need for reintroduction of this ordinance.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Young voted yes.

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, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Dunn

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

Council Member Jackson abstained from voting on the adoption of Ordinance 2022-18.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-18 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. 2845 Groom Road (Mayor)
6. 1637 Robinson Street (Mayor)
7. 12979 Wedgewood (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 Enforcement
 - e. Main Street District Committee

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 November 8, 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
November 8, 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 November 8, 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 October 25, 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 Dunn, seconded by Commissioner Waites 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 November 8, 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
November 8, 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 November 8, 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 October 25, 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 November 8, 2022.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council