

**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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January 10, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on January 10, 2023, 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 Council Member Vincent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Waites.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Bryant to add item “1. Recognize Vikki Lee Wilbon for establishing Rosebud Training Academy, an approved state certified proprietary school, in the City of Baker (Young)” 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.

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 December 20, 2022.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. *Recognize Vikki Lee Wilbon for establishing Rosebud Training Academy, an approved state certified proprietary school, in the City of Baker (Young)*

Council Member Young recognized Vikki Lee Wilbon for establishing Rosebud Training Academy, an approved state certified proprietary school, in the City of Baker.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2023-1, sales & use tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2023-1.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2023-2, insurance license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2023-2.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

3. Introduce Ordinance 2023-3, occupational license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2023-3.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

4. Introduce Ordinance 2023-4, chain store license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2023-4.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

5. Introduce Ordinance 2023-5, alcoholic beverage tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2023-5.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

Council Member Jackson cited the importance of following rules and procedures as the reason for her no vote on each of the ordinances above.

6. End of year review (Mayor)

The Mayor provided an in-depth overview of all that was accomplished in the City of Baker in 2022. He also spoke about the administration's goals and vision for 2023.

7. 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. She asked if the food giveaway has been rescheduled. The Mayor stated it has not been rescheduled at this time. Council

Member Bryant said the city is partnering with the National Fitness Campaign, and as a result a new outdoor fitness court will be built in the city. Council Member Bryant expressed her appreciation for law enforcement officers in the city. She thanked the Fire Department for the distribution of the items donated to senior citizens in the community. She thanked Miracle Place Church for their donation of copies of *Our Daily Bread* that were given to the seniors as well. Council Member Bryant reiterated the importance of standards, saying how we look, how our neighborhoods look, is extremely important. She said the city has ordinances and council members should make it a point to help residents not only understand the ordinances but comply with those ordinances as well.

8. Presidential notes (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant said she is halfway through her term as President of the Baker City Council and it is very important to her that accomplishments are made during her time in office. She spoke about her goals for the coming year, and asked that council members maintain respect for one another whether they agree or not. She feels that creating and maintaining a standard for the city is of the utmost importance. Council Member Bryant said ultimately, she wants the city to grow, to prosper, to be better – for everyone.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

William Davis expressed his concerns regarding the deplorable condition of the Walmart parking lot and asked the Mayor and Council to join his efforts to have the area repaired.

Council Member Vincent stated he agrees wholeheartedly with Mr. Davis and has been working for some time on having the Walmart parking lot repaired. He reminded everyone about the third Saturday of the month and asked that they take part in Council Member Vincent's Friendly Neighbor Keeper initiative. He asked that people remain vigilant and continue to pick up trash whenever and wherever they are able. Council Member Vincent announced the City of Baker will take part in a state-wide cleanup effort in mid-April.

Council Member Dunn stated her goal for 2023 is to focus on what she can change within herself. She said you cannot change people, places, and things, but you can change your response to them. Council Member Dunn said she hopes the council can work together, along with the Mayor, to better the City of Baker.

Council Member Bryant congratulated the newly elected congressional leaders. She reiterated the importance of CPR classes for city employees. She reported that the toys donated to her were given out at the Council on Aging so seniors could give them to their grandchildren. Council Member Bryant asked for the exact date of the contract renewal with Republic Services, as she feels this is something the council needs to vote on. She stated she looks for the trailer across the street from the Fire Department and the blighted building on Plank Road to be removed in 2023. She said it is imperative that residents in the community stop adopting the attitude that less than is good enough, because if you settle for less that's what you're going to have.

Council Member Young addressed his colleagues saying council members talk about respect, yet they do not respect the people who come to the meetings. He said one need only look at the body language of the council. He said one thing is being said, but the body language contradicts it. He said to get respect you have to give respect. Council Member Young said if council members have problems, then they need to find a solution and stop all the griping.

Council Member Jackson expressed concerns relayed to her by constituents regarding the two different size pipes in Parc Chaleur subdivision, drainage improvements at Lavey and Charles, Lavey and Sherron, Lavey and Sinbad, and Lavey and Sandra, as well as the redirection of water as it pertains to the development of residential subdivisions in the city. Council Member Jackson said if residents are displeased with something in the community, they should use all of the resources and tools at their disposal, she encouraged them to go to the media with their concerns. She said that is how you get things done.

Ms. Barber said she hopes council members can begin to work together for the betterment of the community as a whole.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring February 2023 African American History Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent announced he will present an African American history program featuring Scotlandville, Louisiana, on Saturday, February 25, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Baker Branch Library. The presentation will feature a discussion of the book, *Images of America: Scotlandville*, followed by a book signing by the authors.

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.

2. Proclamation declaring January 2023 National Blood Donor 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

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)
8. 2165 Chamberlain (Mayor)
9. 1752 Clark (Mayor)

ANNEXATIONS

REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Planning and Zoning

2. Annexation Review Committee
3. Economic Development Team – Council Member Bryant stated she attended the Baker Economic Development and Convention Center meeting held recently. In an effort to stimulate economic development, she presented a list of businesses to be approached about possibly locating in the City of Baker.
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 Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young 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 Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana held on January 10, 2023.

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
January 10, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, sitting as the Board of Commissioners for Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, met in regular session on January 10, 2023, 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 December 20, 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 December 2022.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to accept the sales report submitted for December 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.

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 for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on January 10, 2023.

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
January 10, 2023**

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 January 10, 2023, 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 December 20, 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 January 10, 2023.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council