

**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 24, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on January 24, 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 City Attorney Fabre.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Waites.

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 January 10, 2023.

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

1. Approve Business License Request – 2023-1

Victory Nutrition, LLC

Location – 15005 Plank Road, Suite B, Baker, Louisiana

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for Victory Nutrition, 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. Explanation of drainage patterns on Chemin Drive, Sherron Avenue, and the upcoming subdivision on Sunshine Road (Mayor)

Chris Davezac gave a presentation explaining the drainage patterns on Chemin Drive, Sherron Avenue, and the upcoming subdivision on Sunshine Road.

Discussion followed.

2. 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.

For the sake of time, Council Member Bryant did not read the mission statement.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Vincent thanked all those involved with the street overlay work, and said they are doing a fine job. He announced the United States Postal Service recently released a new stamp honoring Ernest J. Gaines. Council Member Vincent reported the price of stamps has gone up three cents.

Council Member Dunn thanked Lyric and his team in the Public Works Department for taking care of the pond. She reminded everyone that God loves them.

Council Member Bryant asked the Mayor the following questions: What was the reason the food giveaway was cancelled?, Why were utility bills not sent out?, How long are the trailers on Groom Road going to be there?, How much money was given to the schools from Buffalo Festival proceeds?, Was the pop-up shop held over the weekend licensed by the city, and what tax revenue did the city receive from the event? The Mayor stated he was not prepared to answer any of these questions tonight. Council Member Bryant stated she looks forward to having her questions answered.

Council Member Young stated the utility bills were late going out due to the holidays. He also thanked those involved with the street overlay work and said they are doing a good job. Council Member Young asked the citizens of Baker to recognize the improvement in police service in the community. He said residents should be as quick to compliment the work being done by the police department as they are to criticize it.

Council Member Jackson stated any changes to the council meeting agenda should be brought to the council for approval. She said she is glad to have the name of the company doing the overlay work, Barber Brothers, and asked the Mayor if it would be possible to have them address the asphalt left on driveways. Council Member Jackson congratulated City Attorney Fabre on his recent appointment as Assistant District Attorney for East Feliciana Parish.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution requesting an opinion of the State of Louisiana Attorney General (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant read the resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to adopt the resolution.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: Dunn, Young

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

Discussion regarding food trucks was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to add two proclamations under Resolutions and Proclamations to the agenda.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Vincent stated the city has given residents until the 10th to pay the utility bills that were sent out late due to the holidays.

2. Proclamation declaring February 2023 American Heart Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent summarized 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.

3. *Proclamation celebrating Mrs. Edna McCarter Tillmon's 100th birthday (Vincent)*

Council Member Vincent summarized 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.

4. *Proclamation celebrating the retirement of Pastor Isaiah J. Webster (Vincent)*

Council Member Vincent summarized 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 2023-1, sales & use tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/10/2023)
Public meeting was held.

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

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.

2. Adopt Ordinance 2023-2, insurance license tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/10/2023)
Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Members Vincent/Young to adopt Ordinance 2023-2.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

3. Adopt Ordinance 2023-3, occupational license tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/10/2023)
Public meeting was held.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

4. Adopt Ordinance 2023-4, chain store license tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/10/2023)
Public meeting was held.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

5. Adopt Ordinance 2023-5, alcoholic beverage tax (Mayor) (Introduced 1/10/2023)
Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt 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 asked the Mayor to refrain from repeating her vote after each agenda item unless he intends to repeat everyone else's vote as well.

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

1. 1916 Florida (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to demolish the structure at 1916 Florida.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. 2235 Chamberlain (Mayor)

3. 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)

4. White house next door to 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)

5. 2845 Groom Road (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to demolish the structure at 2845 Groom Road.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

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

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

Council Member Bryant stated someone on the ZOOM call has had their hand raised for a long period of time and has been unable to ask their question. The Mayor asked that the person be recognized.

Ms. Wiltz expressed her concerns regarding the ordinances just adopted and the lack of discussion prior to that action. She stated her main concern is making sure that every business, mobile or otherwise, is paying their fair share of taxes, and asked to see verification of this.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, 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 January 24, 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 24, 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 24, 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.

Commissioner Bryant asked about the email received from Niketa King regarding the number of benches in the cemetery.

Discussion regarding benches in the cemetery followed.

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 January 10, 2023.

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 for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on January 24, 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 24, 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 24, 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 Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 10, 2023.

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

Commissioner Bryant stated the reports are not signed.

Commissioner Vincent asked what “rent” referred to on the General Fund report. Finance Director Mary Sue Stages explained it refers to monies collected from things such as renting the civic center, and leasing the building at 2250 Main Street to the DMV and the Registrar of Voters.

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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on January 24, 2023.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council