

**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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February 28, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on February 28, 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 Eric Burges.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Waites.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to add “Recognize individuals in honor of Black History Month” 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.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to add an item 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 Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 14, 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognize Mr. Roosevelt Bryant for his many years of service to the City of Baker (Mayor)

Mr. Bryant was unable to attend tonight's meeting. However, the Mayor recognized Mr. Roosevelt Bryant for his many years of service to the City of Baker.

2. Recognize former Council Member Doris Alexander in honor of African American History Month for being one of three African American women elected to serve on the Baker City Council (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson recognized former Council Member Doris Alexander in honor of African American History Month for being one of three African American women elected to serve on the Baker City Council.

3. Recognize Council Member Glenda Bryant in honor of African American History Month for being one of three African American women elected to serve on the Baker City Council (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson recognized Council Member Glenda Bryant in honor of African American History Month for being one of three African American women elected to serve on the Baker City Council.

Council Member Bryant recognized Council Member Brenda G. Jackson in honor of African American History Month for being one of three African American women elected to serve on the Baker City Council in 2016.

Former Council Member Doris Alexander recognized Council Member Brenda G. Jackson for her commitment, dedication and service to the Baker community.

4. *Recognize former Council Member and Mayor Dr. Leroy Davis for being the first African American appointed and elected to the Baker City Council and for serving as the first African American Mayor in the City of Baker (Dunn)*

Council Member Dunn recognized former Council Member and Mayor Dr. Leroy Davis for being the first African American appointed and elected to the Baker City Council and for serving as the first African American Mayor in the City of Baker. Council Member Vincent accepted the certificate on Dr. Davis's behalf, as he was unable to attend the meeting.

5. *Recognize former Council Member Sharon Marshall for being the first African American female appointed to the Baker City Council (Dunn)*

Council Member Dunn recognized former Council Member Sharon Marshall for being the first African American female appointed to the Baker City Council.

6. *Recognize former Council Member Joyce Burges for being the first African American female elected to the City Council and a part of the first majority African American City Council in the City of Baker (Dunn)*

Council Member Dunn recognized former Council Member Joyce Burges for being the first African American female elected to the City Council and a part of the first majority African American City Council in the City of Baker.

7. *Recognize Council Member Dr. Charles Vincent for being elected and a part of the first majority African American City Council in the City of Baker (Dunn)*

Council Member Dunn recognized Council Member Dr. Charles Vincent for being elected and a part of the first majority African American City Council in the City of Baker.

8. *Recognize Council Member Robert Young for being elected and a part of the first majority African American City Council in the City of Baker (Dunn)*

Council Member Dunn recognized Council Member Robert Young for being elected and a part of the first majority African American City Council in the City of Baker.

9. *Recognize former Council Member John Givens for being elected and a part of the first majority African American City Council in the City of Baker (Dunn)*

Council Member Dunn recognized former Council Member John Givens for being elected and a part of the first majority African American City Council in the City of Baker.

Baker.

10. *Recognize Council Member Brenda G. Jackson in honor of African American History Month for being one of three African American women elected to serve on the Baker City Council (Bryant)*

Council Member Glenda Bryant recognized Council Member Brenda G. Jackson earlier in the meeting.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Schedule a work session to discuss the City of Baker's parking ordinance (Mayor Young)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to schedule a work session Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the City of Baker's parking ordinance.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

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.

Council Member Bryant read the mission statement, and stated it provides guidelines for the community. She said the city will soon have a community garden and she also stated there are residents who are willing to share the items grown in their gardens. Council Member Bryant announced the traffic cameras usually found in District 3 have been removed for repair. She asked everyone to participate in clean-up efforts this Saturday, as regularly advocated for by Council Member Vincent. If residents are unable to join a group on Saturday, she asked that they please clean their yard and assist their neighbors as well, if at all possible.

3. Discuss public record and open meetings law (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson provided an overview of some of the topics discussed regarding public records and open meetings law at the LMA conference she attended recently.

Council Member Jackson gave the Mayor and Council packets containing copies of information obtained from the presenter of the work session held at the LMA conference. She said questions should be directed to that individual, and their contact information was included in the packets.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor announced a city-wide clean-up will be held Saturday, April 22, 2023. He encouraged everyone to participate.

The Mayor stated City Hall is being painted.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Bobby Watkins, 5206 Byfaul, expressed her concerns regarding standing water in her rear yard. She asked that the city come out and assess the situation so that the issue can be resolved. Mrs. Watkins also stated there are bobcats in the woods near her home.

Discussion followed.

The Mayor said someone from the Public Works Department will be out in the morning.

Martha Hogan, 5213 Circle, expressed her concerns regarding the road construction that

was done and the need for clean-up work following the job. She said since the road work was completed they have had a problem with standing water in the road, something that was never an issue prior to the work being done. Mrs. Hogan also expressed concerns regarding standing water and drainage throughout Paulfor Ridge subdivision.

The Mayor stated the company doing the road construction will address the necessary clean-up work throughout the city. He also stated the Public Works Department will be sent out to assess the drainage issues in the subdivision as well as the need for more culverts in that area.

Council Member Vincent asked the Mayor about the status of the Church's Chicken. The Mayor said they plan to reopen. Council Member Vincent reported the resolution passed by the council at the last meeting has been sent to Walmart along with a cover letter, and he expects action. He reminded everyone about the third Saturday of every month being a monthly clean-up day. Council Member Vincent said the city-wide clean-up initiative being held April 22, 2023 is the fourth Saturday of the month, which will give him back to back Saturdays to focus on cleaning in the city. He asked that everyone join him in these efforts.

Council Member Dunn asked if Barber Brothers was coming back to College Avenue to complete the roadwork. The Mayor said he would go out tomorrow and take a look at it. She announced residents who receive SNAP benefits or qualify for low-income status can apply for the scholarships offered by BREC that will cover 50% of summer camp fees for their family. Council Member Dunn said the city is looking for 50 people from the community to make donations to help pay 25% of the summer camp fees, leaving families responsible for the remaining 25% of the total cost. She announced registration for BREC summer camp will be held Saturday, March 4, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the BREC gym on Alabama Street.

Council Member Bryant asked the Public Works Department to check pumping station #14 to see if it is stopped up. She also asked that they rectify the situation with the collapsed culvert and driveway at 4510 Ashland Street. She reported there are several houses along the street with similar problems. Council Member Bryant said she would like to see a defibrillator placed in city hall. She stated the condemnation report for 4341 Burgess was completed in 2015 and asked that the property be placed on the condemnation list. She asked how the proposed use of smaller buses by CATS would affect transportation in the City of Baker. A brief discussion regarding transportation in the city followed. Council Member Bryant reiterated the importance of communication and asked that when constituents call city hall with an issue, they be given their council member's contact information. She spoke again about the importance of economic development and the need for continued growth in the City of Baker.

Council Member Young commended Council Member Dunn for her efforts to keep Baker kids in our community and reiterated the importance of providing quality programs for Baker youth. He said coyotes and other wildlife are around because they are being driven out by development, and advised residents to watch their cats and small dogs when they are outside. Council Member Young said he has received numerous complaints about Barber Brothers and the work they have done. He said he met with Chief Dunn today and had a very productive meeting. He reported the park is now under 24-hour video surveillance and this is but one measure being utilized by the police department to protect Baker citizens. Council Member Young commended Chief Dunn for taking such action.

Council Member Jackson thanked Mrs. Hogan and Mrs. Watkins for attending the meeting and expressing their concerns. She asked that she be a part of any meetings held regarding these issues. She provided the website residents can visit to get information on who their elected officials are – www.voterportal.sos.la.gov. She suggested the receptionist at city hall be given the council district map in order to tell people who ask, who their council representative is. Council Member Jackson thanked her colleagues for being receptive to receiving the packets containing information regarding public record, open meetings law, and dual office holding. She said information regarding executive sessions will be placed in their mailboxes as well. Council Member Jackson said it is

important to stay informed and to be aware of any changes made to the laws. Lastly, she asked when the city's fire hydrants would be painted. Chief Pease said they are working to establish a program to get the hydrants painted.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring March 2023 National Colorectal 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.

2. Proclamation declaring March 2023 Women's History 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.

Council Member Vincent stated the Black History programs he attended Saturday and today were both very successful. He said he was happy, as always, to be a part of these educational activities.

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)
10. 1905 Alabama Street (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to add 4341 Burgess to the condemnation list.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The Mayor stated 14235 Blairstown is an adjudicated property and cannot be torn down.

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

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 February 28, 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
February 28, 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 February 28, 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 Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 14, 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 Dunn 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 February 28, 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
February 28, 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 February 28, 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 February 14, 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 Dunn 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 February 28, 2023.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council