

**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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March 14, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on March 14, 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 Council Member Young.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 28, 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 Council Member Rochelle Dunn for being the first African American female council member for District 2 (Mayor)

No action was taken on this agenda item.

2. Recognize Mr. Ricky Yousef, owner of the Chevron service station, for his willingness to support the children in the City of Baker and his dedication and commitment to the Baker community (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn recognized Mr. Ricky Yousef, owner of the Chevron service station, for his willingness to support the children in the City of Baker and his dedication and commitment to the Baker community.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve Business License Request – 2023-2
Ambient Education, LLC
Location – 212 Chaleur Drive, Baker, Louisiana

No action was taken on this agenda item, as no representative was present at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held Thursday, March 9, 2023. Therefore, no action was

taken by the Planning and Zoning Commission and no recommendation was received by the council.

2. Approve Business License Request – 2023-3
HRC Group, LLC
Location – 212 Chaleur Drive, Baker, Louisiana

No action was taken on this agenda item, as no representative was present at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held Thursday, March 9, 2023. Therefore, no action was taken by the Planning and Zoning Commission and no recommendation was received by the council.

3. Approve Business License Request – 2023-4
Phone Zone
Location – 340 Main Street, Baker, Louisiana

No action was taken on this agenda item, as no representative was present.

4. **Resubdivision Request:** Groom Road, Baker, Louisiana
Owner: Crosswalk Realty Investment, LLC
Name of Applicant: Merrick Young
Post Office Box 1764
Zachary, Louisiana 70791

Lot: 1 **Square:** 2 **Subdivision:** Baker Lots and Acres

Create Lots: 1-A and 1-B

Property Zoned: R-1

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the resubdivision request for Crosswalk Realty Investment, 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. City of Baker duplication of benefits policy (Mayor)

LaTania Anderson stated FEMA requires the city to have a duplication of benefits policy in order to be in compliance and continue to participate in their programs. She provided an overview of the proposed duplication of benefits policy.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Jackson asked to meet with Ms. Anderson regarding the policy to address her questions and concerns. She stated she did not feel comfortable voting on the policy at this time.

2. City of Baker procurement policy (Mayor)

LaTania Anderson went over FEMA's requirements as they relate to the proposed procurement policy and explained that while the city currently has a procurement policy, FEMA requires certain language be included in order to be in compliance and continue to participate in their programs. The proposed policy would satisfy those requirements.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Jackson asked to meet with Ms. Anderson regarding both policies to address her questions and concerns. She reiterated she did not feel comfortable voting on either policy at this time.

3. 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 stated it is time to start planting green, leafy vegetables that will keep you healthy. Council Member Bryant said communication is extremely important, it keeps the community safe. She reminded everyone – if you see something, say something. She said it is important for citizens to realize we are a village and deal with one another in a respectable manner. Council Member Bryant said efforts to beautify the city are important. Things such as keeping yards cut, removing inoperable vehicles, picking up trash and litter, not only benefit residents, but they also raise the community's standard. These things enhance the look of the city as well, which in turn can help attract businesses.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring April 2023 National Autism Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Mrs. Miranda Georgetown Riley, The Magnolia Rose Foundation, to speak about Autism Awareness Month

Mrs. Georgetown-Riley provided a history of the Magnolia Rose Foundation for Autism Acceptance. She said in order to fund and support the mission and vision of the foundation, they have to solicit donations, sponsors and have fundraisers. She said the foundation hosts two major fundraisers every year – The Rose Run and the Magnolia Ball.

Mrs. Georgetown-Riley announced the Magnolia Sneaker Ball will be held Saturday, October 21, 2023. She said the ball helps fund the foundation's monthly playdates, which are held at different venues each month and are completely free for participants. This month's playdate is being held on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at Jefferson Street Park and will feature a petting zoo and horseback riding.

Mrs. Georgetown-Riley announced the second annual Rose Run will be held Saturday, April 22, 2023, at City Park and this year's theme is a Color Run. The event will feature prizes, a raffle, a vendor village with food for sale as well as resource vendors, a children's sensory lane with learning activities for all children, facepainting, and a DJ. And, as April 22nd is Magnolia Rose's actual 4th birthday, there will be free birthday cake for all.

Council Member Vincent expressed his admiration for all that Mrs. Georgetown-Riley and the Magnolia Rose Foundation for Autism Acceptance has accomplished. He encouraged everyone to do as he has done and support the foundation and its efforts.

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation declaring April 2023 National Autism Awareness Month in the City of Baker.

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.

Recognize Council Member Rochelle Dunn for being the first African American female council member for District 2 (Mayor)

The Mayor recognized Council Member Rochelle Dunn for being the first African American female council member for District 2.

PUBLIC MEETING

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor reported the trailer across the street from the Fire Department on Groom Road has been removed.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Vincent referenced the blue star on his lapel and said it stands for colorectal cancer awareness, as March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. He said Chris Davezac asked for a list of places that need to be addressed by Barber Brothers and he has his list compiled. Council Member Vincent stated he would provide a copy of the list to the Mayor and Public Works Director Timmie Sept as well. He reminded everyone about the city-wide cleanup day being held Saturday, April 22, 2023. Council Member Vincent announced the Baker Chamber of Commerce is hosting a golf tournament and asked anyone interested in participating to contact Michel Woods. He thanked the Mayor and Public Works Director Timmie Sept for addressing the concerns he and his constituents had with the development on Lavey Lane.

Council Member Dunn thanked the Mayor for recognizing her and said her primary purpose is to serve the community, the city, and her constituents. She said she would like to see the council come together and support and work with the Mayor to get things done in the city. Council Member Dunn stated she is trying to have a community center built in the city and she continues to encourage parents to come out and register their children for BREC's summer camp. She said they are working with the City of Baker Foundation and actively seeking donors to help pay a portion of BREC's camp fees for six children from the Baker community.

Council Member Bryant announced the nail shop formerly located next door to Baskin-Robbins is relocating to the old Capital One building on Main Street. She asked that the bumps on Groom Road and Baker Boulevard be addressed because both are a safety issue and pose a hazard to vehicles. Council Member Bryant stated she is passionate about economic development in the City of Baker. She said working together as a council is getting ideas out to businesses and having conversations with them that promote their interests and inviting them to join the community. Council Member Bryant said the city is big enough and diverse enough to support all types of businesses, no business is out of reach. She stated the city must conduct business according to the law and initiated discussion regarding the city's cease and desist procedure.

Council Member Young thanked Council Member Dunn for taking up all of his time. He said he had his grandbaby today for the first time and he is worn out.

Council Member Jackson thanked the residents of District 5 for communicating their concerns regarding road repairs. She said the repair work has been successfully completed. She said she will continue to ride the district and report areas of concern. She said members of any board or body must learn to respectfully disagree. Council Member Jackson said, "You can not control what happens to you, but you can control your attitude towards what happens to you, and in that, you will be mastering change rather than allowing it to master you."

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)
11. 4341 Burgess (Bryant)
12. Chamberlain Avenue at John Marks (Mayor)

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

The Mayor said a letter has been sent to the people who own the abandoned structure on Plank Road. He stated the city has determined the structure to be a nuisance and if the owner does not address the situation, the city will have the structure removed.

Council Member Bryant asked for an update on 4341 Burgess. The Mayor said he did not have an update at this time.

Council Member Dunn asked for an update on 2845 Groom Road. The Mayor said it is an adjudicated property and cannot be torn down.

Council Member Vincent asked for an update on 12979 Wedgewood. The Mayor said he didn't recall and would have to take a look at it. The Mayor said he would let him know tomorrow.

Council Member Dunn asked for an update on the properties on Chamberlain. The Mayor stated he believes the properties have been bought, he would take a look at it tomorrow.

The Mayor asked that residents tell the people who cut their grass to quit blowing grass in the street.

The Mayor also asked that residents stop leaving the debris left over from having trees cut on the side of the road. He said residents should have the contractor remove all debris once the job is completed.

Council Member Bryant requested a list of members for all boards, commissions, and committees in the City of Baker.

ANNEXATIONS

REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Planning and Zoning Commission
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 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 March 14, 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
March 14, 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 March 14, 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 28, 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 Commissioners Dunn/Vincent 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 March 14, 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
March 14, 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 March 14, 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 28, 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 Vincent 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 March 14, 2023.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council