

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

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on March 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 Mayor Waites.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Attorney Fabre.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Young to move the overview of the audit up on the agenda so that it follows the disposition of the minutes.

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 Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 14, 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Overview of audit – Bruno & Tervalon, LLP (Mayor)
Mr. Akanji, Bruno & Tervalon, LLP, provided an overview of the City of Baker's Annual Financial Report for 2022.

Discussion followed.

Schedule a work session to discuss the City of Baker's Annual Financial Report for 2022 with Finance Director Mary Sue Stages and Mr. Akanji or a representative from Bruno & Tervalon, LLP present to answer questions (Bryant)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to schedule a work session to discuss the City of Baker's Annual Financial Report for 2022 on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

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 – 2023-2

Ambient Education, LLC

Location – 212 Chaleur Drive, Baker, Louisiana

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

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.

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:** McHugh Road, Baker, Louisiana

Owner: Quoc Nguyen

Name of Applicant: Quoc Nguyen

5111 Queens Carriage Street

Zachary, Louisiana 70791

Lot: G-1-B

Subdivision: Lecil Miller Property

Create Lots: G-1-B-1 and G-1-B-2

Property Zoned: R-2

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the resubdivision request for Quoc Nguyen.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

5. **Rezoning Request:** Epperson Street, Baker, Louisiana

Owner: Shalanda White

Name of Applicant: Shalanda White

6078 Sandy Creek Lane

Zachary, Louisiana 70791

Lot: 3

Subdivision: Epperson

Property Zoned: R-1

Requested Zoning: C-2

Proposed Use: Tutoring Center/Sweet Shop

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to allow Council Member Vincent to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Discussion regarding the agenda item resumed.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the rezoning request for Shalanda White.

Council Member Vincent abstained.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant stated she fully supports a tutoring center. However, she asked to abstain from voting if the sweet shop could not be removed from the agenda item.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to allow Council Member Bryant to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

YEAS: Jackson

NAYS: Dunn, Young

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion failed with a vote of 1-2.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Young voted yes.

Council Member Jackson voted no.

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Overview of audit – Bruno & Tervalon, LLP (Mayor)

This agenda item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

2. Schedule a work session to discuss the City of Baker's Annual Financial Report for 2022 with Finance Director Mary Sue Stages and Mr. Akanji or a representative from Bruno & Tervalon, LLP present to answer questions (Bryant)

This agenda item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

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 stated the mission statement can be used to improve the City of Baker. She said exercise classes are being held at the BREC gym on Alabama Street. She announced Bryan Trim who lives in Bakerfield subdivision is starting a community garden. Council Member Bryant reported there is a group of young people riding bikes and vandalizing cars, and suggested finding out who their parents are as a way to address the situation. She asked again about mandatory CPR classes for city employees and having a defibrillator at City Hall. Council Member Bryant stated the importance of having a plan in place for active shooter incidences at area schools as well. She said pride and integrity are important and it is imperative that neighborhoods continue to improve so that the city can move forward. Council Member Bryant said the city is big enough and diverse enough to support all types of businesses,

businesses both big and small, and the city needs to attract businesses that can provide a tax base that will support the school system. Council Member Bryant stated she wants to see the city move forward and that it can move forward, she said we must raise our standards and level of expectations.

Ms. Melissa Porter arrived.

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

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

Discussion regarding the agenda items was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license requests for both Ambient Education, LLC and HRC Group, LLC.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring April 2023 Fair Housing Month in the City of Baker (Mayor)

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.

2. Proclamation declaring April 2023 Occupational Therapy 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.

3. Proclamation declaring April 2023 Oral 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 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

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Gretchen Wiltz, Debra Drive, in honor of Women's History Month, recognized the female council members. She recognized, Council Member Rochelle Dunn – District 2, Council Member Glenda Bryant – District 3, and Council Member Brenda G. Jackson – District 5, each of them for being a Woman of History in the City of Baker. She also presented City Council President Glenda Bryant a certificate of appreciation for her outstanding community outreach services.

Council Member Vincent reminded everyone the second annual Rose Run for autism acceptance is being held Saturday, April 22, 2023. He also reminded everyone the city-wide cleanup is being held that same day. He thanked the Mayor, Public Works Department and Chris Davezac for having dirt placed in various locations following the road overlay work. Council Member Vincent stated he had several questions for the Mayor, questions which were asked at a meeting held last night. He asked if the city has a city engineer, other than PEC. The Mayor said Chris Davezac. Council Member Vincent asked that the City Council be notified when the city hires new personnel. He asked the Mayor if the city has additional plans for drainage throughout the city, over and above what has already been done with the rescue money. The Mayor said yes, and asked Council Member Vincent to come by so they can go over the drainage plans. Council Member Vincent stated again that the city-wide cleanup will be Saturday, April 22, 2023. He encouraged his colleagues to form teams to work their districts and asked that everyone, businesses and residents, participate. Flyers are available in the lobby.

Council Member Dunn said she is very excited about the city-wide cleanup. She said she will be at the state Pilot Club convention that weekend, but she is assembling a team and they are excited about the event. She announced registration for BREC summer camp will be held Saturday, April 1, 2023. She said in order to have a camp at the BREC gym on Alabama Street, there must be 50 children registered. Council Member Dunn encouraged parents to come out and register their children for camp. She said it's about the children and she wants them all to be safe and have a good summer.

Council Member Bryant said the city needs businesses that will provide activities for the children in our community. She said it is very important to have something for kids to do in the summertime, so they do not get into mischief. Council Member Bryant asked what the Baker Foundation is. The Mayor stated it is a 501(c)(3), a charitable organization whose mission is to have funds go through there for the schools and the kids. The Mayor said they have a board. Council Member Bryant asked for a list of the foundation's board members. She invited everyone to the United Family Worship Center, 2024 Main Street, on Friday, March 31, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. to celebrate Pastor Jeffery Haynes and his wife Vermonica Haynes on their 10-year Pastor's Anniversary. Please call 225-719-6909 for information regarding tickets. Council Member Bryant asked if the City of Baker has an emergency fund for the utility company. The Mayor said state law prohibits the city from setting up an emergency fund such as that. However, he did say the city works with residents during holidays and natural disasters. Council Member Bryant asked if Chris Davezac has a degree in engineering, and if he is licensed. The Mayor said yes. Council Member Bryant asked about the city's procedures regarding bank deposits. Finance Director Mary Sue Stages said the deposits are brought to the bank by a police officer, and explained that any city employee who handles money is covered by the city's bond.

Council Member Young announced that tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. Baker Heights Elementary is having a book fair and asked everyone to support their efforts.

Council Member Jackson stated everyone has a right to his or her opinion. She read the following quote, "You know you have made the right decision when there is peace in your heart. Amen."

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 the city would not be taking any action on condemnations until better communication has been established with the East Baton Rouge Parish Assessor's Office.

Council Member Bryant asked about 4341 Burgess. The Mayor said letters have to be sent to the owner, and assured Council Member Bryant it will be the first property addressed when the city returns to the condemnation list.

Council Member Vincent asked about the house on Epperson Street with the tree in the middle of it. The Mayor said he believes there is an insurance issue with this property, however the city cannot figure out who owns the house.

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 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
March 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 March 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 Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 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 March 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
March 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 March 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 to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 14, 2023.

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 March 28, 2023.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council