

**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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Telephone Conference Call

Dial In: 646-558-8656

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April 18, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on April 18, 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 Young.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Attorney Fabre.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 11, 2023.

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 Jackson to add schedule a work session to discuss how to move money received from the state from priority five to priority one.

Discussion regarding priority level designations of state funds and the possibility of receiving said funds was held.

The vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: Dunn, Young

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. **Resubdivision Request:** McHugh Road, Baker, Louisiana

Owner: Quoc Nguyen

Name of Applicant: Quoc Nguyen
5111 Queens Carriage Street
Zachary, Louisiana 70791

Lot: F-1

Subdivision: Lecil Miller Property

Create Lots: F-1-A and F-1-B

Property Zoned: R-2

Discussion regarding the agenda items was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent 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.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Schedule work session to go over the budget procedure (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to schedule a work session on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. to go over the budget procedure.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: Dunn, Young

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

Schedule a work session to discuss how to move money received from the state from priority five to priority one (Bryant)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to schedule a work session on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. to discuss how to move money received from the state from priority five to priority one.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: Dunn, Young

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

2. Discuss “day to day” operations and what that means (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre provided an overview of what is considered “day to day” operations as they relate to the executive branch of city government. He referenced Article III of the city charter when detailing and explaining the responsibilities of the Mayor’s office.

Discussion followed.

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 said many area residents have gardens and she asked that they contact her at 773-7135 if they need any assistance. She announced the city plans to place exercise equipment in the park and this will enhance exercise availability in the city. Council Member Bryant stated she has heard police visibility in the community has been low and she wanted everyone to know the police

department is in the process of hiring new officers. She said she has received reports that both children and adults are going to the vacant property on Burgess. Council Member Bryant reminded everyone of the importance of taking pictures of the inside of your home and your belongings for insurance purposes, as we are entering hurricane, rain and flood season. She said such documentation is invaluable should disaster strike.

4. Reading of Attorney General's letter (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant read the letter she received from the Attorney General's Office regarding her request for an opinion on City of Baker Ordinance 2010-11. She explained that the Attorney General's Office will not render an opinion on this matter at this time due to pending litigation.

5. Discussion of upcoming budget (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant stated the budget has been discussed enough tonight, and she is looking forward to the upcoming work session.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring May 2023 ALS 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.

2. Proclamation declaring May 2023 Arthritis 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.

3. Proclamation celebrating the Southern University Lady Jaguars on being the 2023 SWAC Women's Basketball Tournament Champions (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

Sheila Anderson, 4504 Fausse, asked for information regarding the canal that runs behind her property in Meadows of Chaleur subdivision.

Public Works Director Timmie Sept stated the city is in the process of acquiring land

from property owners in the area so that the city can address the situation.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Vincent said he attended the Love the Boot press conference yesterday and procured a plethora of information. He also said this is Love the Boot week in Louisiana and provided an overview of the in-depth report he received from the state regarding littering in Louisiana. He reminded everyone about the city-wide cleanup being held on Saturday, April 22, 2023, and encouraged everyone to take part in this effort. Council Member Vincent also encouraged everyone to participate in his Friendly Neighbor Keeper initiative held on the third Saturday of every month in a continued effort to keep Baker beautiful.

Council Member Dunn thanked Chief Dunn and Chief Pease for going to Rolling Fork, Mississippi, and everything they did there. She thanked David with Sno Biz for serving hot dogs, and everyone who contributed and made donations. She said another tractor trailer will be leaving tomorrow morning, going to Silver City, Mississippi, to deliver disaster relief supplies. She thanked the Mayor for giving her the opportunity to be of service to another city. Council Member Dunn said the council needs to learn to come together and not attack one another or the Mayor. She went on to address issues and concerns she has with Council Member Bryant. She reiterated how difficult it is to work with colleagues who persist in promoting negativity.

Council Member Bryant responded to the concerns expressed earlier in the meeting and said she does not believe in bullying, but in doing things the proper and respectful way. She reiterated that she respects everybody's opinion and their vote. Council Member Bryant stated she is on the council because she loves the City of Baker, and her purpose is to serve its citizens. She said as we respect each other, there is no reason to attack each other. She said engaging in such activities distracts city leaders from dealing with issues vital to improving the city and moving forward. Council Member Bryant closed with a quote by James Baldwin, "It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have."

Council Member Young commended Council Member Dunn for all she has done as a newly elected council member. He said it's not always easy, but he encouraged her to keep pushing through. Council Member Young suggested that council members institute a policy that would limit their speaking time under Non-Agenda Items to five minutes. He said any more than that is a dissertation and simply wasting people's time, anything more than five minutes is just a show. In response to Council Member Bryant's comments prior to the invocation, Council Member Young also suggested that a prayer box be placed outside the council chambers, so that the items placed in the box could be prayed for during the council meeting's invocation.

Council Member Jackson said following the council meeting last week where she expressed her concerns regarding the City of Baker Community Foundation, she conducted further research, and was able to talk to Angela Trahan. She asked Chief Pease if the Baker Fire Department is still participating in the Baker Charitable Foundation's bingo. Chief Pease stated he could not answer that question, as the Baker Fire Department has never been involved with bingo. He suggested Council Member Jackson contact the president of the Fireman's Union Ronald Brady and/or the Baker Volunteer Fire Department Social Club. Council Member Jackson stated she requested, via email, a copy of the recently filed federal lawsuit involving the City of Baker. She said the request was made on April 12, 2023, and as of today, she has not received the information she requested. She respectfully asked the City Attorney to provide her with this information.

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)

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 Jackson, 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 April 18, 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
April 18, 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 April 18, 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 Dunn, seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 11, 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 April 18, 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
April 18, 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 April 18, 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 April 11, 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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on April 18, 2023.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council